MRS. BROWN'S VISIT TO THE PARIS EXHIBITION

BY

ARTHUR SKETCHLEY

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MRS. BROWN'S VISIT

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THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

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MRS. BROWN'S VISIT

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THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

BY

ARTHUR SKETCHLEY,

AUTHOR OF "THE BROWN PAPERS."

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TO THE READER.

It may be necessary for me to give a short explanation of the circumstances under which I became cognizant of Mrs. Brown's proceedings at the Paris Exhibition, and I will do so in as few words as possible. It was on a remarkably-hot day in the early part of last month that I encountered Mrs. Brown at the Exhibition. She was seated at one of the refreshment stalls partaking of some bottled stout, sausage, bread and butter, which she termed "a 'asty smack," though it certainly occupied a considerable time to get through. It was during that repast that she told me a small portion of her adventures, in which I naturally felt so deep an interest that I availed myself of a kind invitation she gave me to pay her a visit and hear the sequel on her return to

town, as I was unfortunately unable to remain in Paris with her. But though not an eye-witness of all that befel her, I can vouch for the authenticity of all the statements made by this worthy lady, and recommend her as a safe guide for those who may desire to visit the Great Exhibition of 1867.

ARTHUR SKETCHLEY.

LONDON, *1st June.*

MRS. BROWN'S VISIT TO THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

I DON'T think, Mr. Scratchley, as ever I shall 'old up my 'ead agin, as the sayin' is, for of all the dead beat feelins as ever I had, this is the wust, and do, I assure you, as now I've got onto this chair, I feels as tho' I'd took root in it, for I never did see sich a place as this Paris for knockin' any one up, as well I remembers the last time as I were here, crippled me for months, and certingly I did wow and declare as nothink ever wouldn't make me come 'ere agin; and when Brown come in and said as he was a-goin' to Paris, I says, "Well, then," I says, "leave me at 'ome;" but you see as 'uman natur is weak, and 'ere I am, tho' only arrived the night afore last, and wouldn't 'ave believed it, only Brown, he says as it would be a sin and a shame for to miss such a chance of goin' there for next to nothink!

I says, "Whatever do you mean by next to nothink?"

"Why," says Brown, "there's a party in the name of Cook as makes escursions all over the world."

I says, "Then I'm glad as I ain't 'is good lady; but," I says, "do you mean to say as he makes escursions all over the world, like as they did used to take us to the Rye 'Ouse of a Whit Monday?" And well I remembers poor Mrs. Alder, the butcher's lady, as pitched out of the wan 'ead foremost thro' a-stretchin' out too far for to look at the wiew, and if she 'adn't stuck between the two sharfts and the 'osses tails, must 'ave been trampled to death in a instant, as shows as it's a mercy sometimes for to be a lusty figger, the same as Mrs. Beales, as trod on one of them round irons in the pavement as they lets the coals down thro', and if she'd been a inch less round the waist wouldn't never 'ave 'ung there a-danglin', till drawed up, thro' passin' of a clothes line, under 'er arm 'oles, as cut 'er dreadful, but better any 'ow than a wiolent death.

Brown, he says, "When you've quite done a-clackin', p'raps you'll listen to reason, as ain't a thing for to be looked for in a woman."

I says, "Mr. Brown, you're mighty clever, no doubt; but if you're a-goin' to insult my sect, I don't want to hear no more about it."

He says, "Oh, pray, don't 'ear if you don't like; but," he says, "as several friends of yourn is a-goin', I thought p'raps as you'd like the trip, and all done with no trouble nor espence."

I says "Whoever is a-goin' ?"

"Well," he says, "there's Mr. and Mrs. Paine, and Miss Tredwell, and Mr. and Mrs. Archbutt, and the Wellses."

I says, "I ain't no objection to the Archbutts, nor yet to Mrs. Wells, but as to 'er 'usband, he's a reg'lar hidjit, and that Miss Tredwell is a hass."

He says, "I never did 'ear such a woman to find fault as you are, Martha. Why, you'd find out blemishes in a hangel."

I says, "That ain't Miss Tredwell, tho' you are always a-cryin' 'er up, for she's no hangel."

Tho' the moment as I 'eard she were a-goin', I says, "I'm there," for I wasn't a-goin' to let 'er 'ave a chance of piscnin' Brown's mind agin me, as I know'd as she'd glory in, for tho' not a jealous disposition, and, goodness knows, no cause; yet it's more than flesh and blood can stand, to think as your own 'usband's been set agin you, with nobody nigh for to take your part.

So I says, "Well then, Brown, let's 'ear about it."

"Well," he says, "it's Cook's escursion, as I were a-sayin'."

"Ah," I says, "let's 'ope there ain't too many cooks, as we all knows will spile the broth;" as I'm sure, Mr. Scratchley, is true with these 'ere French, as is all cooks; and I never tasted sich rubbish as their broth, as they calls bullion, as don't taste of nothink but of water and grease, as they'll lap up by the quart, as can't do 'em no good.

Brown, he was a-losin' 'is temper, and says to me, "Are you a-goin' to listen or not?"

I says, "You needn't be down my throat, jest cos I opens my mouth."

He says, "Take and read it yourself."

"No," I says, "you esplain it clear to me."

"Well, then," he says, "you can go and see this 'ere Exhibition in Paris, and stop a week, for about five pounds, as is cheap."

"Yes," I says, "but none of their dirty 'oles to live in, and all manner of beastliness for to eat, as the werry sight on gives me the 'orrors."

He says, "I've heard say as everythink is fust-rate, and as Mr. Cook looks arter it all 'isself, as is a 'ighly respectable party."

"Well," I says, "I should 'ope so, or else you won't ketch me a-filanderin' about Paris with him, as is a bold place; and you do ought for to be werry careful 'ow you goes on, for them foreigners is a lot as makes uncommon free."

"Well," says Brown, "I don't think as you'll

ketch any one a-makin' too free with you in a 'urry."

"Ah," I says, "Brown, there was a time when you wouldn't 'ave spoke that light about it."

"Yes," he says, "that were afore you took to a front," and bursts out a-larfin', as 'urt my feelins', though I wouldn't let 'im see it.

"Well," he says, "are you agreeable for to go?"

I says, "I am, Brown, thro' 'avin' wowed for to obey you."

"Oh," he says, "don't mind that; stop at 'ome if you likes."

I says, "No, Mr. Brown, I goes where you goes, and stops where you stops."

"Well, then," he says, "be ready by Saturday."

And so I was, tho' not a day as I likes to leave 'ome.

Somehow I didn't feel as I were a-goin' on Saturday, and so it turned out, for on Friday evenin' Brown said as we wasn't to start till the Tuesday follerin'.

I was werry glad to 'ave the time for to get ready, and certingly I must say as Mrs. Porter, as is the laundress, 'ad got me up two muslings beautiful, as was lovely dresses—one a orange striped with green, and the other a blue, with large yaller leaf a-runnin' all over it.

I wouldn't 'ave no scarcity of clothes, so took my large 'air-trunk, as is a useful size, and did once 'ave brass nails all round, as was nearly all picked out by a cockatoo with a yaller top-knot, as was brought from sea by a captain as once lodged with me, and was kep' on a perch with a chain to 'is leg, jest long enough to reach that box, only one night, and not a nail in the top on it as he hadn't picked out afore mornin'.

I couldn't find the key of that box nowheres, so sent to the locksmith as fitted one in. I don't think as ever I did feel a 'otter morning than that Tuesday as we started; and of all the tempers as ever a man did show, it was Brown, as I says, "Really it's quite awful for anyone as is goin' to sea for to use sich langwidge over a boot-lace, as is enough to bring down a judgment on you;" the same as that boy as went to sea thro' a-sayin' don't care, and was tore to bits by lions, as I know it's true is found there, thro' a seein' one myself at the Jewlogical Gardens, as was that tame and fondled the sailor as 'ad ketched 'im for all the world like a lap-dog. Not as I should 'ave cared for 'is nasty slimy ways.

I do think as them cabmen was born for torments, for if that there idjot as come to take us to the railway didn't take and drop my box slap onto my bandbox, as it's lucky I tied up in a old shawl, or it wouldn't

never 'ave 'ung together, and my leghorn bonnet a pancake when I took it out.

My last words to Mrs. Challin, as 'ad come to take care of the 'ouse, was, "Mind as you waters the plants in the back parlor winder, and feeds my bird, not a-forgettin' of the cat," as I'm sure knowed as I was a-goin', for he'd been and 'id 'isself jest like a Christshun, as many can't a-bear sayin' good-bye, as I'm one myself. The 'oss went off with sich a jerk as nearly throwed me 'ead first thro' the winder, and Brown, that savage, a-sayin', "Whatever are you a-buttin' at?"

I says, "I ain't a-buttin' at nothink, but," I says, "I do feel that faint as I must have a somethink," for I was all of a tremble, as if somethink was a-goin' to 'appen, and arter I'd took a drain I felt better; but them railways always upsets me with their screamins, as there can't be no sense in.

I was well wrapped up, for Mrs. Challin, she says to me, "Depend on it as you'll feel the sea that chilly as might give you a cold as would lay you up," as I know'd it certingly might, for I remembers a cold as I took, when a gal, thro' a-bathin at Margate, as is the reason as I've never took a bath since. So I wore my coburg cloth and a netted spencer under it, with my welwet cape and a warm shawl. I'd got on a pair of them webbin'

shoes and lamb's-wool stockin's, for tho' the weather was that sultry, I wasn't a-goin' to leave off nothink, a-rememberin' well the old sayin', "afore May is out, ne'er cast a clout," tho' I'd took my muslings for to look dressy over there, for I know'd as Paris were a dressy place, and I'm sure the way as you gets stared at, nobody wouldn't credit. I was glad when I was safe in the carriage, and werry nice company, I must say, partickler a lady and gentleman as was a-settin' opposite me, as 'ad got my face to the 'osses. They was elderly both, but seemed for to enjoy life, and the old gentleman, he says, "Ah, mum, we couldn't 'ave done this when we was young, as steam wasn't born nor thought on."

I says, "Sir, you'll escuse me that it were, for I well remembers I was only a gal when a party as lived somewhere out Brompton way, as 'ad a steam cooking-machine, and blow'd 'is own 'ead off thro' a-tamperin' with the taps a-showin' of it to parties as 'ad come to dinner, which in course under them circumstances he never tasted, poor feller. I was quite young that time as they opened that railway and killed the Duke of Wellin'ton, werry nigh, as was only saved thro' some one else a-throwin' 'isself under the wheels for to save 'im."

The old gentleman says, "Excuse me, mum, but you've got 'old of the wrong story."

I says, "Well," I says, "that's what my own mother told me, as was one as would 'ave scorned a false'ood; and certingly I remember myself once being aboard a steamer a-goin' to Margate with a aunt of mine, as the biler on bust and 'ad to be took over the side aboard of another, and thought as we'd lost every rag of clothes as turned up when least expected on the Margate jetty, tho'," I says, "I'm not a-goin' to deny as steam is a wonderful inwention, for all that."

"Yes," says the old gent, "and found out all by accident."

I says, "Yes, and dreadful accidents, too; for I'm sure it's enough to make you trimble all over to take up the paper, and," I says, "I'm sure to read about the way as the train run right over a bridge the other day."

"Oh," says the old lady, "pray don't, mum, for I'm that nervous, as any illusions to accidents, and I must get out at the fust station."

"Ah," I says, "some is so; but, law, it's no use a-thinkin' about it, for my part, whenever I goes out anywheres I gives myself up for lost, and then don't think no more about it, tho'," I says, "for to end piecemeal ain't what any one would like."

Brown, he says, "Drop it, can't you, don't you see as you're a-makin' this good lady quite faint, so drop it."

I did; and talkin' of droppin', I thought as I must 'ave been melted down with the 'eat, tho' a-facin' of the wind as blowed things into my face constant, and a somethink got in my eye, as was hagony till the old gentleman got it out with 'is gold ring, as I've 'eard say is a fine thing for the eye, partikler for to cure a sty.

'Owever Mr. Cook could manage to 'ave the sea that calm as it were a lookin'-glass, I could never make out, till a young gent as were a-settin' by me says, "Why not?"

I says, "Because we all know as them elephants is outrageous when let loose, as I knows well, for when I come afore I thought as every moment was my last, and looked for'ard quite nat'ral to a briny grave."

Says the young chap, "Would you try 'omy-pathy?"

"Well," I says, "I'd owe any one a good deal as would save me from them suffrages."

"Oh," he says, "one of these powders will keep it off."

"Well," I says, "I wish as you'd 'ave kep' it off me;" for he was a-goin' to take a powder, and if the wind didn't take and blow it all into my face, and a lot went into my eye, as was quite throw'd away, thro' not bein' a part as sea-sickness is a trouble to.

I don't think as I should 'ave 'ad a qualm, only some nasty blacks was a-settin' near me as give way to their feelin's disgustin'.

So I says, "You dirty black beast," I says, "'ow dare you to do it!"

He says, "Me no go for to do it. No me fault."

I says, "Yes, it is." I says, "Why can't you turn your nasty black face away from anybody?" As is always a unpleasant sight, for if there is a thing in this world as I 'ates it's a black man; not but what of course they've got their feelin's, only they always gives me a turn some'ow, not but what I've know'd 'em that affable as you'd quite take to 'em, and as to cookin', they're wonderful clever, tho' I don't never quite fancy the wittles.

I've 'eard a deal about their ways over there in "Robinson Crusoe," tho' certainly that Friday were a kind-'arted savage, as seemed fond of his Pa, as is 'uman natur still tho' black.

I felt a little bit squeamy once, but only for 'arf a minit like, and wouldn't touch nothink but a glass of bitter ale; and all as I've got to say is, that if ever any one did rule the waves it's Mr. Cook's escursions.

When we got to Dieppe, Brown says to me, "Old gal, it won't never do for us to get to Paris in the

middle of the night or towards mornin', so I tell you what it is, we'll go on to Ruin."

"Well," I says, "I don't 'old with goin' to Ruin, as we could 'ave gone to long ago at once but for care and a-lookin' to the main chance, but if you're a-goin there I'll foller."

He says, "It's a fine old town, and we can sleep there, and get on to Paris to-morrer."

I says, "I'm agreeable."

I ain't got nothink to say agin Ruin, as certingly is a fine town, but I'm sure the fall as I got a-gettin' into bed with them spring mattresses, as is wobbly sort of things, and thro' me not bein' over active in climbin', was a buster. I got into the bed and slipt off agin in a instant, and don't think as ever I should 'ave got up agin if Brown 'adn't come in to 'elp me, and no bones broke, only a good deal shook.

It certingly is wonderful for to see them old churches, that crumbly as you wouldn't think as they could 'ang together for a minit and called Ruin accordin', and werry fine ruins they certingly is; yet I was werry glad for to get on to Paris thro' my things bein' sent thro', and 'adn't a change of nothin' for to sleep in, as ain't pleasant in a foreign land. It's werry well for Brown, as got shaved in the mornin'; but, law, I didn't feel myself like myself.

Of all the rain as ever I did see, it come down all the way to Paris, as is thro' green fields; and you wouldn't think foreign parts not to look at 'em; and when we got to Paris, you never did the crowds a-fightin' for to get a cab was wonderful to see.

Talk of French politeness, I'm sure that's rubbish, for the way as they pushed and shoved about was downright English; and as to them porters, they didn't mind nothink as I said.

They was certingly werry perlite over my luggage, and well they might be, for I 'adn't nothin' smuggled; and they asked me if I'd anything for to declare.

"Yes," I says, "I can declare as they're my lawful property."

Says the interpreter, "They don't mean that."

I says, "What do they mean?"

"Why," he says, "anything for duty."

I says, "In course not, and shouldn't say so if I 'ad; let 'em find it."

I do think we was over a 'our a-waitin' for that cab, and got one at last; and 'adn't to go werry far to where we was a-goin' to stop, as is a 'ome as Mr. Cook 'ad prowided, and a mercy too, for of all the charges I never did, as Mrs. Archbutt met a friend as told her they was chargin' 'arf a crown for a cup of tea as wasn't drinkable, tho' it did

ought to be, for the price is somethink frightful; and I'm sure would be worth anyone's while for to bring over a pound or two, as nobody needn't pay more than four shillin's now-a-days, as is a 'igh price, and not to be 'ad decent for three times the money in Paris.

I was glad for to get a cup of tea any'ow when I got to where we was a-goin', and fell in with the others as 'ad come on, and dead beat they was, as is only nat'ral; and there was that Miss Tredwell a-howlin' with the tooth-ache, and Mrs. Paine, she'd been and lost all 'er things, as made Paine go on any 'ow than was becomin' of a Christshun.

As to Mrs. Wells, she's one of them poor 'aporths of cheese as is always a-goin' to faint, and did ought to 'ave stopped at 'ome; and as to Wells, he ain't no more feelin' than a cobbler's lap-stone, as the sayin' is; and 'er always a-cryin' as he didn't love her, and quite bothered me aboard the steamer, a-sayin' as he did used once to doat on the ground as she walked on afore she lost 'er eye, as certingly is a blemish, but not one to set a man agin 'is lawful wife; for I do believe as Brown would love me all the same, and p'raps more, if my 'ead was to be knocked off to morrer, as is one of them back-bone characters as never changes till you dies, as is what I call a true-'arted man, tho' a rough temper, and will speak 'is mind; and

werry nigh give a man a 'ot-un at the railway as was a-shovin' of 'im about too free, as it's a duty not for to let them French trample you under foot, as they'd glory in, no doubt, but will have their work cut out to do it; leastways, that's what I thinks.

I don't think as ever I did feel more fresher than when I started for to see that Exhibition, and 'ad words with Miss Tredwell a-correctin' of me, and sayin', as it were a Exposishun. "Well," I says, "I shouldn't think of settin' you right in a 'buss full of people as knows my way about, p'raps, as well as you, though I never was at boardin' school in France," as she kep' on a-blowin' about, and a-sayin' as 'er accens was quite Parishion, and yet, whenever she did open 'er mouth, there wasn't a soul as understood 'er, and that obstinate as would 'ave she were right, tho' aperient to every one as she were wrong all over, and made 'erself that ridiculous with the 'buss man over the fare as takes your money as soon as ever you gets in, but she says, "Nong payez oncor Jammy," but 'ad pretty soon to, or out he d 'ave 'ad her as 'ad a glary eye, and didn't seem for to care about the English, as, no doubt, many French can't a-bear 'em as 'ad, p'raps, their own relations prisoners, same as them as made them little straw boxes and things as my dear mother 'ad one on 'er own self as they made,

poor things, and no wonder, as must 'ave 'ad the time 'ang 'eavy on their 'ands, 'cos, when a young woman, my dear mother lived lady's maid with a officer's lady as 'ad the charge on 'em, and told me as 'er 'art bled for 'em, and so did her missuses, partikler for one grey-headed old party as were a Count, or something, and was always a-frettin' and a-takin' on, and that kind lady did used to speak to 'im gentle like, and 'is poor old French eyes would fill up with tears, but, bless you, that proud as they dursn't offer 'im not a pinch of snuff as a favor, but at last let out as he'd got a daughter as was a-dyin', as he'd give 'is life for to see once more; and he did, too, for that officer's lady she never rested till she got him changed for somebody else, and I've 'eard mother say as 'is daughter got quite well, and growed a lusty figger, and come over to England with 'er pa in long gold ear-rings, and 'er 'air done in bows, with bishop's sleeves, as was all the go in them days. So I always feels for them French, for who knows as they mayn't some on 'em be prisoners now, same as they did used to be, shet up till the mob bust in, burnt the Pastiles, and found one as was foolish in 'is 'ead, as, no doubt, too much on 'em would make any one, as is faint smellin' things, and I don't 'old with 'em, not even for a sick room, as a little fresh hair wont never do no 'arm in.

I'm sure, talk of the tower of Babylond, it couldn't 'ave been nothink to that Exhibition, as is a reg'lar confusion of everythink, and all worked by steam-ingins, as is a-goin' like mad all around you, for all the world like the sausage-machine as I well remembers near Shoreditch Church, as caught the man as made 'em by the apron, and if he hadn't 'ad the presence of mind for to undo the little brass 'art as fastened it behind, he'd 'ave been sausage-meat in a minit, and no one never the wiser, as in course they wouldn't, for a clean apron wouldn't give no taste, leastways not as could be unwholesome.

I must say as it's downright wonderful 'oweve they could 'ave got the things together, and all a-workin' away, as I see them myself a-makin' soap with the naked eye; not as I'm one to stand a-starin' without a-encouragin' the preformance, as I considers mean; and I'm sure a cake of soap is a thing as always comes in useful, partikler in France, where they ain't much give to usin' on it; for it's a thing as you never do see in a bed-room, and for that matter the washin' things don't seem made for use; not but what I've seen 'em quite as useless in England, and will say as them French beds is beautiful clean down to the mattress, as I'm sure there's many a one in England as the tickin' on won't bear the daylight, and ain't never changed from year's end to year's end; and as to washin'

the blankets, why, there was old Mrs. Namby as lived next door to me at Stepney, she quite blew me up for 'avin' my blankets washed, as she said wore 'em out afore their time.

It's downright wonderful for to see all them savage foreigners a-goin' about that tame, as no doubt they're afraid for to come any of their wagaries, as they'res lots of sojers about as would make dog's-meat on 'em in no time, and serve 'em right if they was to try it on, with their 'eathen ways; as they let's 'em ride about on the top of their camels, just to keep 'em quiet, as was all werry well for them, but I wouldn't 'ave clomb up on one of them 'ump-backed brutes was it ever so, but quite good enough for them as rode 'em.

I was that stunned with the row as them steam-ingins kep' up, that I says to Mrs. Archbutt, "My 'eads that whirl, as take somethink I must."

So she says, "I'm a-famishin'." And, jest then, up come Mr. Wells, and says as he'd 'ad a glass of pale ale, as 'ad done 'im that good, and made a man on 'im.

So I says, "Wherever did you get it?"

He says, "Jest out at that door."

I says, "We're sure to find you somewheres about."

He says, "All right." And off we goes for to

get a little beer, and come right on to a English refreshment-place, where there was a lot of lovely gals certingly, but looked that 'aughty as you'd 'ave thought they was royal families.

I 'ad a bottle of stout, as they was werry perlite tho', sayin' as the waiter would serve me, and seemed for to look on me as a mother like, no doubt a-feelin' lonesome in that desultory sitivation, and with all them bold foreigners a-starin' at 'em, as certingly ain't got nothin' like 'em in the way of fieldmales not all over the place; tho' I must say as them Frenchwomen 'as a way with them as is uncommon takin', and dresses well even in their shops, as it must take 'arf the mornin' for to do their 'air.

I don't think as ever I did enjoy anythink more than that porter, and me and Mrs. Archbutt was a-settin' 'avin' of our joke over some of them parties, and I says to Mrs. Archbutt, I says, "She was in the way when noses was paid out," illudin' to a party with, I do think, the longest nose as ever I did see a-protrudin' from a 'uman countingouse; "and," I says, "'ow ridiculous young she is dressed, as 'll never see fifty no more. And," I says, "do look at the old guy as is with 'er, with 'is false teeth, and 'air and whiskers dyed."

I was a-runnin' on, and Mrs. Archbutt says to me, "What a one you are to go on!"

I says, "I can't a-bear to see old fools, for they're the worst of fools."

If that old woman with the nose didn't turn on me and say, in English, as "I were a disgrace to my country, a-settin' there abusin' people."

I thought I should 'ave died, for if she wasn't English, and 'im too.

It's lucky as I'd paid for the porter, for I jumps up and 'urries off a-leavin' Mrs. Archbutt for to foller; and if that spiteful old feller with the dyed 'air didn't tell a waiter as I'd bolted without payin', as come arter me, and would 'ave ended unpleasant, only the other waiter as I 'ad paid spoke up like a man.

So I give it that old scarecrow well, and says to 'im, "I've a good mind to spile your beauty for you, and knock some of them false teeth down your story-tellin' throat."

Poor Mrs. Archbutt, she says, "Oh, pray don't, Mrs. Brown."

I says, "I ain't a-goin' to be trampled on, mum, not if I knows it." But I pretty near was, for if them niggers on the camels didn't come by, and if it 'adn't been as one of them chaps in cocked 'ats pulled me sharp out of the way, I do believe as I should 'ave been pulverized like the dust under their feet.

When I come to myself, I looks round for Mrs. Archbutt, and if she wasn't disappeared, as I

thought werry unfeelin' for to leave me like that; but I says, "No doubt they ain't none on 'em far off." So I walks all round thro' them refreshment-places a-lookin' for Brown, but not a westment on 'im wasn't wisible nowheres.

So I stops one of them police, and says to 'im, "Brown—passy ici," as I know'd was French for "pass here." He stares at me, and then jabbers somethink about "passy," and I say, "Yes, passy, Brown." So he calls one of them interpreter chaps, as come up and says, "You vant Pascy?"

I says, "No, I can passy myself, but 'ave you see anythink of my good gentleman in the name of Brown, as is a fine-figgered man, in a dark surtoo, with drab pants, and a bend in 'is back like a magistrate, as many 'as often said to me, "Mrs. Brown, mum, to foller your good gentleman, any one would take 'im for a royal family behind, as is a noble forehead with a commandin' nose, and any one could tell in a instant among a thousand, with a eye like a 'awk a-beamin' on you." So I says, "'ave you see 'im anywheres about?" If that idjot didn't say as he couldn't comprehend!

"Well," I says, "you must be a born natural, not to understand, and call yourself a interpreter, as understands everythink, leastways did ought to; and," I says, "I won't come out agin without 'is photygrapht, as any one would tell 'im by, tho' only

a shillin', yet a faithful likeness, leastways enough for to show what he might be."

I was a-wanderin' about like any one deserted, and wonderin' 'owever I should get 'ome agin with all that wilderness of people, when all of a sudden I see Brown 'isself a-walkin' that leisurely as if nothink 'ad 'appened. I did feel that aggrawated, and I says to 'im, "Your a nice man, to call yourself a 'usband."

He says, "What's the row?"

"Why," I says, "'ere you've been and lost me for 'ours, and as cool as tho' I'd never lost sight on you."

"Oh," he says, "I know'd you'd turn up. Like a bad shillin', sure to come back." I don't think as ever I did see such a conquest of people, and 'busses, and cabs, and coaches, all a-strugglin' for to get away, and it's wonder as they wasn't all smashed up together.

I says, "Brown, 'owever are we to get 'ome?"

"Oh," he says, "all right, there's a cab been telegraphed for, as Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Archbutt is in, down here."

I says, "Telegraphed for, 'ow is that done?"

"Oh," he says, "quite easy, jest the same as callin' for it."

I says, "I wish as they'd telegraph us 'ome," for my feet was that hagony as I could 'ardly bear to put 'em to the ground.

"Oh," he says, "it ain't far; come on, and put your best leg foremost."

I says, "Brown, 'owever can you be a-talkin' about my legs like that, afore strangers too," not as there was any there as cared about showin' their legs.

I was a-tryin' for to get along as well as I could, when we got up to where the cab was a-comin' along with Mrs. Archbutt and Mrs. Wells in it, as is both full figgers, and there was Miss Tredwell in, too; as filled it chuck full, as the sayin' is.

So as soon as Miss Tredwell see me, she says as she'd get out and walk, as she should prefer, as is 'er bold ways a-likin' to be always a-charfin' and talkin'. I was that dead beat as I couldn't say 'er nay, for walk I couldn't, and three was as much as ever that cab could 'old, and squeezy work it was; but we managed it, and off we goes, and 'adn't got 'arf a mile when, in turnin' the corner pretty sharp, I 'eard a crunch, and then came a bump, and over we was. There was Mrs. Wells a-yellin' and Mrs. Archbutt a-ravin', and there come a crowd, and them police, as got the door open and begun a-pullin' at me like mad, a-tearin' my clothes off my back and a-goin' on like anythink in their langwidge. 'Ow they did get us out I don't know, and a deluge of rain a-comin' down in torrents as drenched us pretty nigh.

I says to Mrs. Archbutt, "Do come on into this caffee," as it's lucky as I know'd the French for brandy; and the little as we took brought us round, tho' Mrs. Wells kep' a-sayin' as it would be 'er death, as bein' out in the wet was always fatal to 'er. I says, "You ain't neither sugar nor salt, as a drop of rain should melt you;" and it's well as she wasn't, for we 'ad to walk thro' it, and a pretty row we 'ad with that cabman, as 'ad been paid, and I suppose wanted to be paid for 'is wheel as he did ought to 'ave 'ad put on stronger. I give the card as 'ad my address on to the police, and then they let us go; and a nice bother we 'ad to get to where we was stoppin', and that sopped as I went to bed the instant as I got in, fully expectin' as I'd got my death of cold; and asked the young woman as was English to bring me a cup of tea for to take the chill out of me.

It was a werry nice room, and all my things was in it as 'ad been moved out of the room as we slep' in the night afore; and glad I was to be in bed and a-thinkin' as Brown wouldn't be long. I 'ad dozed off when I 'eard a 'ammerin' at the door as waked me up, and I says "'Ow foolish on me, I've been and brought the key inside with me as they can't open the door without;" and thinkin' it was Brown, I gets out of bed and goes to open the door jest as I were, and says, "Come in," and if there didn't

stand there two young English jackanapeses, as bust out a-larfin' as soon as ever they see me.

I was a-goin' to slam the door, but they was too quick for me, and one on 'em puts his foot in it and says, "Come, none of that, you've kep' us waitin' long enough."

I says, "Go away you wagabones, or I'll call for 'elp."

They says, "Go away yourself as 'as got our bed-room."

I says, "Never! the chambermaid put me 'ere, 'ere I stops;" and I says, "you'd better be off, or I'll raise the 'ouse, and my 'usband 'll soon settle your 'ash."

They says, "Oh, come, none of that, this is our room, and you come out on it, and that's all about it;" and if they wasn't a-comin' in.

I 'ollers out 'elp, murder, fire, and all manner, and there was a pretty filli loo, as the sayin' is, for out come lots of people in their dishabillies, and up comes Brown and Mr. Wells, as 'ad been settin' up smokin'; and if that stupid gal 'adn't been and put me into the wrong room, as I 'ad to turn out on thro' bein' a double-bedded one, and I says, "Brown, I'm sure, if things goes on like this, I'm not a-goin' to stand it, and 'ome I goes."

"Oh," he says, "go to sleep; you'll be all right in the mornin'." But it was ever so long

afore I did drop off agin, for I wouldn't 'ave 'ad any one see me the figger as I was 'ad it been ever so, and I see that Miss Tredwell all of a broad grin a-starin' at my night cap, and wouldn't never 'ave come out of 'er room only she'd got all 'er back 'air down as she's proud on, tho' all false.

As to Mr. Wells, he come out and behaved like a downright savage in his night-shirt, a-swearin' frightful as I'd been and scared 'is wife to death.

I says, "Oh, rubbish, fiddle-sticks, your wife's a mask of affectation."

"Well," he says, "I don't care about her, but ain't a-goin' to 'ave my rest broke like this, and shall get other quarters."

I says, "Get 'em, and good riddience of bad rubbish," and goes in and slams my door, and Brown in course sided agin me, and said it was my stupidness; and, bless you, I couldn't get to sleep for ever so long thro' the noise in the streets, as is never endin'.

The next mornin' as soon as breakfast were over, Wells says, "We're off—good-day," quite short, as I only says, "'Opes you may better yourself," and didn't say no more thro' a-goin' to dress for the Exhibition, as I put on my musling with the flounces for to be cool, and off we set in a party, agreein' for to be independent and meet among the picters about one o'clock, as is my delight, and could look at by the hour together.

I don't think as ever I did see sich a lot of lovely picters as you keeps a-walkin' round and round thro' all day, leastways me and Mrs. Archbutt did one day, for 'er and me agreed for to keep together, and as to goin' thro' all them gardens along with Brown, that I couldn't, was it ever so. Me and Mrs. Archbutt was a-settin' a-talkin', and if there wasn't a lot of them French a-makin' remarks on us, and a-grinnin', as I says a set of grinnin' baboons, that's what I calls them; tho' certingly Mrs. Archbutt is one of them parties as looks conspicuous, as the sayin' is, for she's as broad as she's long, and a face that red as flambeaus is a fool to it, and will dress that showy, a-sayin' as blue becomes 'er and made 'er look young, as is 'er fancy, poor thing, as nobody with a 'art wouldn't contradict 'er in, as is a 'armless delusion as ever I know'd.

So them French kep' a-makin' remarks, and at last Mrs. Archbutt says to me, "I should like for to tell 'em my mind, the low willins; 'ow dare they, and whatever," says she, "can they see for to larf at in you, mum."

I says, "I were not awear as they were a-larfin' at me, as I thought it was you as they was a-turnin' into ridicule as made me feel 'urt."

She says, "They're starin' at you."

I says, "I don't know as I'm one as ever anyone 'ad the impidence for to stare at, as I'm sure

I never gives no encouragement to parties like that, tho' when a gal couldn't never 'elp parties starin,' thro' me a-bein' that attractive, as I always were much admired;" for, when I was quite a child, I remembers well bein' dressed for a party as I were a-goin' to in a white frock and a green spencer, with a bow behind, and three tucks with work between 'em; a pink sash, and red morocco shoes, with a red coral necklace, and pink glaize musling gloves; with a straw 'at and cherry-coloured ribbins, and was that admired as parties as come for to put out the kitchen chimbly, as 'ad took fire accidental, couldn't do nothink for starin' at me, and let it blaze out, as brought the ingins, and cost my own uncle five pounds, as were a retired calender, and lived comfortable in 'is own 'ouse near Pentonville, tho' a citizen and a liveryman, with a family wault in St. Magnus church, close agin London Bridge, where he lays buried to this werry day, tho' there was a talk of bein' obliged to move 'im for to build New London Bridge.

I see Mrs. Archbutt a-turnin' up 'er nose, and begun a-tellin' me about a nobleman as 'ad kissed is 'and at 'er out of 'is cabrioly in High Park, as is more likely as he were a-takin' a sight at 'er for a reg'lar old fright.

I must say, as the wittles and drink at that Exhibishun is beautiful, though not over whole-

some I shouldn't say, thro' them mixtures as they takes; and as I were a-gettin' peckish, as the sayin' is, I says to Mrs. Archbutt, "Let's go and 'ave a somethink, if it's only a mouthful."

She says, "We'll go to the English refreshments, for then I knows what I'm eatin'."

"Well," I says, "it's pretty much the same everywheres; but," I says, "I've got a fancy for something French."

"But," she says, "if we leaves the picters, we shall miss the others as promised to come and meet us."

"Oh," I says, "we've waited long enough for them; come along, we're sure to meet 'em somewheres."

So off we set; but, law, I got that bothered as I couldn't find my way out, but kep' a-walkin' round and round till I werry near dropped, and then I asks a party as put me in the way to get out; and as soon as ever I come to one of them refreshments, I reg'lar dropped into a seat.

Well, one of them French gassons come up a-askin' me what I'd 'ave, as didn't know what to ask for; so was obligated for to take a sweet cake, and 'ave a glass of their beer, as is the beastliest stuff as ever I did taste, and along with the sweet made Mrs. Archbutt 'eave frightful, a-sayin' as I'd been a-playin' a trick on 'er. I only took one

mouthful myself, and that was a buster, I can tell you, for anyone to bear. What the feller charged I couldn't make out, but set there and took it out in rest, as was needful, for my feet was a-throbbin' fit to bust, tho' I 'ad got myself a pair of them white boots as is that easy, but don't show the foot off, I must say.

"Now," I says, "Mrs. Archbutt, we said as we'd be 'ome early thro' a-thinkin' for to go and see the 'Ipperdrome this evenin'; and," I says, "we'll start," and so we did, for I don't think as anyone can stand more than a hour or so in that Exhibishun.

So we walks out of the gate, and I says to one of them cock 'at perlice, "Omblibus, Parry," and thought as I should know the place by sight as I wanted for to get down at. I thought as that omblibus wasn't a-goin' the right way; no more it wasn't, for if they didn't take us out to Passy, as they calls it. So I gets out and says to the conductor, "Whatever is to become on two lone fieldmales, in a foreign land; we must go back." But he only jabbered something, and pulled that there bell as he'd kep' a-ringin' every minit all the way in my ear, and pretty nigh drove me mad, and away goes the 'buss.

I says, "Whatever are we to do?" for I didn't know my way no more than a uninhabited island, and was afraid for to walk on, a-thinkin' we might be a-goin' wrong; and what with the dust and the

showers as kep' a-comin' up, we was nice figgers; when who should come by in a one-'orse shay but the Wellses, as we said as we wouldn't 'ave nothink to do with, through their a-goin' off like that, as pulled up, and said as they was a-livin' out Passy way, and said as we'd better come and 'ave some refreshments, as, indeed, we wanted bad enough; and Wells he made hisself werry agreeable, and said as he felt sorry as he'd spoke sharp about bein' disturbed, as was 'is temper; and as to goin' to Passy, they'd agreed for to do that afore thro' 'avin' friends there as was a-stoppin' out in pension, and found it more quieter and cooler than Paris.

I never was more glad of anythink than the tea and cold meat as we got at that pension; as Mrs. Wells says to me, "Why ever don't you come 'ere and stop?"

"Well," I says, "I don't think as Brown would fancy bein' a pensioner, as is a proud temper, tho' you wouldn't think it for to look at 'im. But," I says, "'owever are we to get 'ome?" But, law, the people of the house was that obligin', as they saw us to a 'buss as took us close where we was a-stoppin', as is out beyond the Shopy Dantin, where the 'busses runs to, and no doubt should 'ave got 'ome all right, and in good time, only Mrs. Archbutt she says to me, "They'll all be gone to the 'Ipperdrome, as they calls the surk, so let's get out, and dawdle along a bit."

I was that tired as I didn't care about it, but didn't like for to seem ill-natured; so out we gets jest agin the Magalin, as they calls the church, as isn't a bit like the chapel over agin the Blackfriars Road, where parties did used to go for to 'ear the singin' of a Sunday.

Well, out we gets, and walks along the Boulywards, and Mrs. Archbutt, she says, "What are they a-doin' there?"

I says, "Oh, nothink."

She says, "It's music. Oh, law, the band," she says, "as I doats on. Come on," and 'urries down one of them wide streets where the soldiers was a-walkin' up to where there's a 'igh column, with Bonyparty on the top. Well, when them soldiers got there, they stops, and there wasn't many on 'em, and not much of a band to speak on; and so I tells Mrs. Archbutt.

"Oh!" she says, "they'll play directly as is awfully grand."

We was a-standin' talkin' agin that column, when they set up all of a sudden a-beatin' them drums that loud as made me jump out of my skin.

I says, "Mrs. Archbutt, it's my opinion as it's a riverlution broke out, as werry often 'appens, and they're a-goin' to fire; so," I says, "let's run for it," and jest then the 'orns and trumpets blowed

like mad, and I takes to my 'eels, and runs like anythink; but, as bad luck would 'ave it, I fell over a old gentleman's poodle-dog, as would 'ave bit me, no doubt, only for a little wirework thing as he wore over 'is mouth as stopped him, but 'is 'owls was awful; and if the old feller didn't call me wile names, and 'it on the ground with 'is cane as come down a topper on my foot, as gave me that hagony as I give him a pretty good-un over the shins with my umbreller.

Up come the police, as I couldn't make comprehend nothink; and if that fool Mrs. Archbutt didn't set up a squealin' as made things ten times wuss, and we should 'ave been locked up, only a party as was comin' by, as were English, explained matters for me; not as I said anythink about the riverlution, but only as the drums an' trumpets 'ad give me a sudden fright, and so they 'ad, and when I did get 'ome I was more dead than alive; and we was 'ome fust after all.

I'm sure the 'eadache as I got was that wiolent, thro' the shock of them sojers, as I never will believe didn't mean mischief, only they're afraid for to do it, for that Emperor he do keep 'em in proper order; and quite right too, for I'm sure it quite made my blood boil for to see one of them picters of that there lovely Queen, and her two pretty dears of children, all a-standin' behind a

table a-bein' insulted that gross by a parcel of fish-fags as is a-'owlin' at her. I only wish as I'd been Queen, I'd pretty soon 'ave 'ad the sojers out and at 'em; and so she would, only her good gentleman as were King were that easy, as he stood and let 'em cut 'is 'ead off without a murmur. As is werry well if it was only 'is own 'ead, but a man with a wife and family did ought for to stand up for 'em, as I told Mr. Dobson, as were in the fancy stationery line just down the Bow Road, as let ev'rythink go to ruin, and 'im a-talkin' politics at the "Globe" every evenin', and her upstairs, and the shopman a-fingerin' the till, let alone making away with the goods, as soon come to a end, and no one to thank but 'isself; and that's where it is as this 'ere Bonyparty 'as the pull, thro' a-makin' the streets that wide as he could fire from one end of the place to the other, as always makes me feel nervous a-crossin', let alone them busses as comes thunderin' along with them cart-'orses a-gallopin', and makin' a row as is enough for to terrify anyone as ain't used to it. But as to Mrs. Archbutt, she's a downright idjot, as will stick right in the middle of the road and scream, and was as near done for as ever I see anyone atween a buss and a cart of stones, and 'owever she come out alive I can't make out, tho' dreadful bedaubed; and they did want 'er to go to

the 'ospital, but I says, "Never!" for well I knows their ways as don't stick at nothin', but will cut you open alive jest to see what's the matter with you, as is carryin' things a little too far, I should say, as never forgive a young fellow in the name of Aldridge, as were a medical student, and was always a-tryin' 'is experiments on dogs and cats, and cut 'is own finger one day over some of 'is tricks as werry nigh carried 'im off, and did ought to be a-warnin' to anyone.

The way as Brown went on at me a-supposin' as a riverlution might break out was downright aggrawatin', but all as I says is, what 'as been may be; and certingly it would be a sin and a shame for to let them mobs tear the place to bits, as is done up that lovely as you never did, and quite a pleasure for to see; and the only thing as I can't a-bear is them stairs, as is werry often that slippy as it's as much as your life's worth to go up 'em, as I knows to my cost, for we was a-livin' up pretty 'igh, and goin' 'ome one night along with Mr. and Mrs. Archbutt that tired as I didn't know 'ow to put one leg afore the other, and jest as we got pretty near the top, and me a-goin' fust with the candle, I jest remembered as I 'adn't got the key, and I turns round sharp, and says to Mr. Archbutt, "Jest step back, and get the key." He's rather 'ard of 'earin', and didn't ketch what I says; and as to 'er she was that

short of breath, as speak she couldn't; so he kep' on a-comin' up, and jest then a party as lived on the same floor opened 'is door sudden, and the rush of wind blowed out the light, and he come out with a basket fust, and not a-seein' me so close, ketched me in the back with it thro' me bein' turned round for to speak to Mr. Archbutt, and sent me with a flop agin Mr. Archbutt, and we all come down them stairs that rush higgley-piggley, as the sayin' is, as brought the people out from the floor below, and there we was all on the landin' a-strugglin' as nat'rally thought we was mad or in liquor, and it's a mercy as we wasn't hurt dangerous, and no bones broke, but only a lump on the back of old Archbutt's 'ead as big as a pigeon's egg; and the key in the door all the time, thro' Brown bein' come in and gone to bed, and in a nice temper at me a-wakin' 'im up, and says quite savage—

"If you likes a-goin' about till this hour, you might come in like a Christshun, and not like a ragin' wild beast."

I says, "Brown, I ain't a wild beast. As to hours, it's only jest on eleven, as you'd call early in London, and I'm sure it's a mercy as I'm here at all, for of all the falls as ever I've 'ad, this is the wust."

"Oh," he says, "you're always a-tumblin' about, but 'as got as many lives as a cat."

I felt that 'urt at Brown a-comparin' me to a cat, but didn't say nothink.

"So," he says, "why, I do believe as you've been a-smokin'."

I says, "Don't be that insultin', Brown," as 'ad only been for to 'ear the music at the Caffee Shantun, and never see more lovely dressed parties, not as they was ladies, for they sung werry bold and loud, and when they come round a-askin' parties for a trifle, they was downright ugly, and that thick in powder all over their backs and arms, as they must 'ave put it on with the dredger, I should say.

So I says to Mrs. Archbutt, when one 'ad done a 'ollerin', as I didn't think much on 'er.

"Why," says a party as spoke English remarkable well, "she's one of them famous singers as sings afore the Emperor 'isself, and 'as refused thousands as 'ad been offered 'er for to go to the Operer."

"Well," I says, "she must be a fool for to sing out 'ere in the open hair for 'apence, when she could get thousands at the Operer." Not as I thought much of 'er singin', as bawled that loud, and no chicken neither, as any one could see thro' all 'er paint and powder, as is a bad thing, and only makes parties look old and wrinkly the sooner, as some will do it, for I've 'eard my dear mother say as she remembered well a party as were enamelled, as must 'ave led a wretched life, for she dursn't smile, nor

shed a tear, and if she dared to sneeze, would have shook it all off.

I do think as I never were so tired as arter that Exhibishun, for as to the wittles there, it ain't what I fancies, but is kegmegy stuff, as you 'ave to pay thro' the nose for, as I knows to my cost, thro' 'avin' to pay a lot of money for a dinner as I calls muck, and so it were.

I'm sure the stuff as they called soup wasn't nothink but 'ot water, with a lot of that wermyselly in it, and a rubbishin' bit of a patty as they calls a wolly-wong, and then a bit of beef as were that coarse and stringy as I couldn't a-bear the sight on, with a bit of cheese, and some werry washy pertaters. The best part of my dinner were bread and butter, and as to the wine, it was stomach-ache all over, so I took some bottled ale.

I ain't much of a 'and at their coffee, and as to their brandy, it's downright beastly.

So I says, "I tell you what it is; this 'ere dinner cost us pretty near five shillin's a-head, so I don't do it no more, for we get werry good plain wittles where we're a-stoppin', as is a good solid breakfast, and a good meat tea. So," I says, "we'll take a snack at some of them English places where we knows what to ask for; but," I says, "none of your foreign delicacies," as they persuaded me was delicious in Russher, as I went into and 'ad some stuff give me

that were downright train-oil, that rank and green; and to see them nasty beasts a-drinkin' tea out of tumblers, with a slice of lemon, like negus, in it, and the waiters that dressed out in their silk coats, and a young fieldmale as looked werry outlandish.

I do say as the Dutch gal's caps was prettiest, and not so bold as them Greeks, as I didn't like the looks on myself; but I must say as whatever them French means by a-grinnin' and larfin' at them Chinese parties, I can't make out, for whatever is the French but foreigners theirselves, so needn't talk, I'm sure, for of all the figgers as some on 'em is I never did, and as to wittles, why they'll eat anythink, and seem to enjoy it, as the werry look on it gives me quite a turn.

Miss Tredwell, she's one of them as must make 'erself out to know everythink, and she says it's no use a-dinin' at the Esposishin', as she will call it; we did ought to go to dine at the Pally Royal, as is where the quality all goes, and Kings and Queens did use to live in.

"Ah," says I, "for my part, give me a 'umble meal as do not envy no Kings and Queens their ways, as is far too grand for me," as I know'd something about, thro' 'avin' seen the tables laid out when Queen Wictoria was a-goin' to dine with the Lord Mayor, when she was fust queen, and am

quite sure as I shouldn't 'ave eat nothin' for starin' about me.

"Oh," says Miss Tredwell, "Kings and Queens don't live no longer at the Pally Royal."

I says, "No, I don't suppose as they do, and couldn't eat no dinner if they did without their 'eads on;" as I said, to 'ave a cut at 'er, as is always a-showin' off 'er learnin'.

I see as it made 'er wild, that illusion, for she can't a-bear for no one to know nothin' but 'erself, as I ain't a-goin' to put up with no such nonsense; not as ever she comes that rubbish afore Brown, as soon set 'er down, when she begun a-showin' off about Bonyparty's battles, as she didn't even know where they was fought.

Well, she kep' on a-talkin' so about the Pally Royal, as at last we said as we'd go, and it is a lovely place certingly, as did used once to be the gamblin' 'ouses all round, and Brown said as he'd read all about it, and 'ow parties would lose all their money, and then go out in the gardings for to blow their brains out, as 'adn't many for to blow, I should say, if they'd be that foolish for to go and lose all their money, and their lives into the bargain.

So Brown says, "Now, I tell you what it is, I ain't a-goin' in for none of your rubbishin' dinners at a low price, as is throwin' the money away; but let's pay a decent price for a good dinner."

"Oh," says Miss Tredwell, "there's the dinner of Europe, as comes to four francs altogether, as seems a good sum," so we went to 'ave it; but, law bless you, it sounded a good deal, but wasn't nothink, really. As to the soup, it was all tapioca, as is a thing I don't 'old with myself; and then come a bit of fish, about two mouthfuls; and then they give us a bit of weal, as wasn't bad; but not no wegetables, nor melted butter with it; and then there come some fried artichokes, as werry nigh proved the end of Mrs. Archbutt, for they was all them prickly leaves fried that hartful in batter as you couldn't tell what they was, and she's a 'arty eater, and eats a deal too fast, and if she didn't take and bolt a bit of that artichoke, as stuck in 'er throat, and I thought as she must 'ave bust everythink a-coughin'; 'er 'usband, deaf as he is, could 'ear 'er, and took and give 'er a punch that wiolent in the back as put 'er temper out, as I must say is aggrawatin', and she gave 'im a back-'ander; up come the waiters, and one feller says, in 'is broken English, as he couldn't allow no fight.

I says, "Who's a-fightin', you born fool, don't you see as your rubbish 'as werry nigh choked the lady," as by that time 'ad got 'er breath agin, and she was a-goin' on at 'er 'usband, as she said 'is blow was the cause on it all. I says, "No' it's this

stuff as is like eatin' grass, and werry nigh slipped down my throat, and is a shameful take in." Brown, he says "As it weren't, for every one know'd as artichokes was dangerous things." It quite upset me, to see Mrs. Archbutt, not as I can say as it spilte my dinner, for they didn't bring us nothink more but some bits of bones of fowls, as I got a bit of the back and the bone of the wing. Certingly, the salad looked nice, but too much ile in it for me, and arter that they brought us a hice each, as I wouldn't 'ave touched on a hempty stomach for the world; so Miss Tredwell she eat mine as well as 'er own, and nicely she paid for it afore the night was out; we 'ad wine allowed, as I can't a-bear, and keep a-warnin' Miss Tredwell agin, a-knowin' as she was subject to the cramp; and besides that, she took and eat cherries as they give for desert. It was one of them dinners as sounds werry well with nothink in it arter all, and glad I was for to get out in the gardings, and 'ave a little somethink, as I don't 'old with their coffee and no milk, but likes a drop of brandy-and-water 'ot for to settle them dinners, as is no real nourishment in 'em, tho' Miss Tredwell did keep on a-sayin' as it was the best dinner as ever she'd 'ad.

"Well, then," I says, "no wonder, you're such a weazel of a figger."

She says, "I'd rather be a weazel as isn't nearly

so like to pop as a porpoise," as I know'd she meant at me, but wouldn't notice, and was all false, for I'm sure she eat a 'arty tea off cold weal and 'am, when we got 'ome as I don't consider too much on good at night, and altogether so it proved with Miss Tredwell.

We was all pretty well fagged, for we'd been on our legs near all day, so agreed as we'd go to bed early, as we was a-goin' to Wersales in the mornin'. I was jest a-droppin' off to sleep when I 'eard some one a-groanin' and a-callin' in the next room as were Miss Tredwell's, and only diwided by a door from ourn; so I gets out of bed, and says to 'er thro' the door, "Whatever is it?"

She says, "Oh, I'm that bad, I'm a-dyin'."

So I 'urries in, and there she was bad enough with cramps and spavins as made 'er yell agin.

I didn't know what to do, but slips on a flannin' gown, and goes down to the parties as keeps the 'ouse, as lives across the court-yard there for to ask if they'd got any 'ot water, as it wasn't more than 'arf-past eleven, and as luck would 'ave it, thro' being English, and some parties a-comin' late, there was bilin' water for tea, and when I told the good lady, she says, "Oh! I've got a 'ot-water bottle as 'll be jest the thing;" and she fills it up for me, and I wraps it up in my flannin' gown, and upstairs I goes all of a 'urry, and when

'arf way, remembered as I'd forgot the light as I'd left down below. I must say as I was pretty nigh out of breath altogether, and thinks as I can find my way up, a-knowin' as there was lots of lucifers about the place. So on I goes, and when I got near the room I 'eard awful groans; so I says, "Law, poor thing, she must be in hagony to make that noise over it." So in I goes all in the dark, and says, "Here, my dear, this'll do you good," and puts the 'ot-water bottle on 'er chest, as I thought, when I 'eard a roar like ten thousand bulls in French and a man's woice; so sketches up the bottle and rushes out with it, I run agin Brown, who was a-comin' to look arter me with a light, 'avin' 'eard me go into the wrong room, as sure enough I 'ad, and nearly frightened a old Frenchman to death, as was only a-snorin' as I took for groans; but the water was 'ot enough for to comfort Miss Tredwell, as I give 'er a dose of mixture as I always carries about with me, and stopped with 'er till she dropped off, and in the mornin' she was all right, and werry thankful, and I don't think as she'll be so full of jeers any more about me.

Where we was a-stoppin' was werry comfortable all but the stairs, and bein' overlooked as is downright dreadful 'ow them French do go on with their winders that wide open, as you can see right into the rooms over the way; leastways across

the court-yard as our room looked into, and glad I was to get 'em, for the fust night I was in front of the 'ouse, and get a wink I couldn't for the noise as never ceased, and them busses a-thunderin' along, and I says to the good lady as is English too, and looks arter the 'ouse, and that obligin' as I never did, I says, "Mum, whenever do them French get any rest?"

She says, "I can't tell, for they're at it all day long, and night too, and Sundays, and all."

"Yes," I says, "and more shame for 'em to be a-workin' all day Sunday; leastways, more shame for the masters as makes the poor men work, as every one do require rest one day in the week;" not as I 'olds with them as says as you mustn't take no amusement of a Sunday; but as to work that's a werry different thing, and I'm sure there was Miss Tredwell a-goin' on about the Papists a-sayin' as it were their faults; and I says, "You'll escuse me as 'ave been in Germany among the Protestants as was all workin' the same, and as to the theayters and balls, there was more a-goin' on Sunday than any other day."

She says, "As the Prince of Wales didn't ought to 'ave gone to the races on Sunday as was out at Chantilly."

I says, "You don't know as he did go, for some say he didn't, and if he did, that's 'is business,

and what nobody didn't ought to interfere with." I says to Miss Tredwell, "If you thinks it wrong, don't you go; but," I says, "you leave others alone to do as they likes."

I know'd as I were 'ittin' of 'er 'ard, for, bless you, she went out Sunday evenin' and see the dancin' along with some others, and no doubt would have danced 'erself, only nobody didn't ask 'er.

As I was a-sayin', tho' comfortable in Paris, when I mentioned to Brown about goin' out to where the Wellses was a-stoppin', he took to it, and so did Mr. and Mrs. Archbutt; but law, Miss Tredwell, she quite took on, and I says to 'er, "Well," I says, "you can stop 'ere, then."

"What," she says, "a young person like me, without no protection," for she'd 'ad a reg'lar row with 'er aunt, as is Mrs. Paine, a-comin' across, as were a old quarrel, as was brought up agin aboard of the steamer, about a young man as Miss Tredwell said as 'er aunt stopped from a-marryin' as is downright rubbish, for I'm sure no man in senses would 'ave 'er, as he'd take all for wuss and none for better, tho' she 'ave got a bit of money, leastways will 'ave when 'er aunt is dead and gone. They 'ad them 'igh words, as sent Miss Tredwell into the dead sulks; so 'er uncle said as she'd better jine our party, and so she did, wuss luck. So I says to 'er, "Look 'ere, if you're a-goin' to

be with us, you must do as we do, and not be a-findin' fault with everybody and everythink, and if you don't like our ways, you can go back to your aunt, as was a-stoppin' out at Wersales."

But she says, "Never."

So I says, "Then stop 'ere, or come with us, and that's all as I've got to say;" and then she took to snivellin', a-sayin' as I'd been as good as a mother to 'er, illudin' to the 'ot bottle, as the old Frenchman didn't seem to care about, for he took 'isself off the werry next mornin' afore breakfast, tho' fully esplained as I didn't mean no insults, but he couldn't a-bear no English, and wouldn't believe as I didn't do it for the purpose.

We went out to Passy the werry next day but one arter the 'ot bottle business; but the weather was sich, I do think as I never see sich rain a-comin' down as was water-spouts.

I'm sure as Mrs. Wells was glad to see us, and we was all put to lodge in the same 'ouse, and werry clean and nice it were; but 'ad for to go out to meals, as was all took in another 'ouse, and good plain wittles, leastways a good breakfast and tea, with lots of cold meat and eggs, with bread and butter, as were a meal in itself, and a thing as I relishes. It was werry cool and pleasant, and as to that Bore de Boulone, it's downright beautiful, and the next mornin' me and Mrs. Archbutt, arter

breakfast, went for a stroll, for I couldn't stand that Exhibishun for a day or two—it do confuse my 'ead that dreadful; so Mrs. Archbutt and me agreed as we'd stop at 'ome, and the others went off, and then we goes off on the quiet, a-wanderin' about that Bore, and it certingly is lovely, with parties a-walkin'; as you'll meet sometimes a weddin', all dressed in their best, as the bridegroom looks more like a funeral thro' bein' in black, and I must say as the bride looks bold with nothink on but a wreath, as don't seem suitable for out of doors.

I was a-walkin' on slow a-sayin' as it were lovely, with parties a-ridin' about on their 'orses and carriages, and just then a fat Frenchman, on a bright yaller-lookin' 'orse, came a-bustin' along with a cigar and red ribbon in the button-'ole of 'is coat, so I 'ollers "'Igh!" to Mrs. Archbutt, and touches 'er with my umbreller, as was jest a-steppin' across the path, as looks like a foot path as 'orses didn't ought to come on.

Law, that Frenchman's 'orse; he rared, and plunged, and dashed, and the Frenchman, he yelled and ketched 'old of the saddle, as I could see wasn't no rider.

So I says, "He'll be off," and sure enough he was, not as he pitched on 'is 'ead, but come down soft, as the road is made so for the purpose. Some one

ketched the 'orse, and up they all come to me, and the Frenchman, he was werry much bedaubed, and one of them chaps in the cock 'at, he come up, too, and all begun a-jabberin'.

So I says to Mrs. Archbutt, "No doubt he's 'ired the 'orse, and wants for us to say as it were not 'is fault; but 'ow can we, thro' not a-knowin' the French for it all;" but if that Frenchman couldn't speak English, leastways enough for to be abusive, and he call me a old dog, and said as I was the beggar as 'ad 'it 'is 'orse with my umbreller, as never touched the animal. I give 'im a bit of my mind, tho', as soon shet 'im up, and off he went, but didn't get on that 'orse no more, and I says to 'im, as he was a-goin' off, "Next time as you comes out for a ride, try a donkey," as made all them French bust out a-larfin', as must 'ave understood what I said, and it's my opinion as they understands a deal more than they pretends to.

We'd 'ad a late breakfast, and so I got some refreshments at a place in the Bore, as come to a good deal, tho' only a bottle of beer and a roll with a bit of sausage, as they give us ready enough; and then I says to Mrs. Archbutt, "But suppose as we was to walk Paris way a-bit." As she were agreeable, and on we goes a-dawdlin' and a-restin' on them seats, as certingly is werry convenient, and jest as we got agin the Arch de Triomf,

as they calls it, I says, "We'll wait for a 'buss as 'll take us right into Paris as far as ever we likes to go. But," I says, "they do say as the thing is to see the wiew from the top of this 'ere arch."

"Oh," she says, "I should like to see it above everythink."

I was sorry as I'd spoke, for she's that stout as stairs is death to 'er, and can't a-bear to be thought it, and that touchy if you illudes to it.

So I says, "Well, it's a good many stairs."

She says, "Never mind, we can take it easy."

It's all werry fine for to talk of takin' it easy, but there's some things as you can't take easy, and stairs is one on 'em, for I'm sure I took them stairs crawlin' like, and 'adn't 'ardly no breath left when 'arf way up, and as to Mrs. Archbutt, when she got to the top, I thought as die she would. She set down then and there, and quite fought for 'er breath, for the wind was that 'igh as it was enough to take you off your legs.

So a-seein' 'er that bad, I goes to 'er and unties 'er bonnet, and if the wind didn't take it clean off 'er 'ead, bonnet, cap, 'air and all, as she got fastened in

If you'd 'eard 'er scream, and me too, you'd ave thought we was killed. Up come some parties as showed as they wasn't ladies and gentlemen, for

they roared with larfture as soon as they see Mrs. Archbutt a-settin' there 'elpless in 'er bald 'ead.

It wasn't no use me a-sayin' as I were sorry, for she wouldn't 'ear reason, and kep' a-sayin' as it would be 'er death. I tied 'er pocket-'ankercher and mine over 'er 'ead the best as I could, and as soon as she'd got 'er breath, down we goes, and all the way 'ome she kep' on at me a-sayin' as 'er bonnet was quite as good as new, as is only a covered shape, and never become 'er thro' bein' blue, as she's as yaller as a guinea, and don't suit with blue, and could show her nose anywheres without 'er 'air, as was a dreadful old gasey with the partin' all wore out; and I'm sure she'll look all the better in a new one, as we was a-goin' to get 'er at once; but she'd got that awful cold, with the rheumatics in 'er 'ead, as bed was 'er place all the next day, and a nice job I 'ad a-nursin' 'er, as cross as two sticks, and that wild with Archbutt, as said she did ought to know better than go a-climbin' up places with 'er weight; and so we 'ad to put off our journey to Wersales, as was as well, for the weather was werry lowery.

It was towards evenin' as Miss Tredwell she come in and says, "Oh, we've 'ad sich a delightful day, and been to see all them lovely picters as they've got in the Louver, as is a place as you've

got to see, Mrs. Brown, but, p'raps, won't understand, as is that classical."

So I says, "See the Louver, in course, I 'ave often, as I don't consider a decent place for a female; and I'm sure parties as it belongs to did ought to be ashamed of theirselves not to 'ave them picters finished proper, and put the clothes on them heathen creeturs, as is left a-standin' there without a rag to cover 'em, tho' certingly fine-limbed figgers; but I don't 'old with them bold ways myself—not as they looks much like 'uman bein's, as I can see, but, in course, was different in them days."

So Miss Tredwell says, as all she cared to look at was the kings and queens, and sich like.

"Yes," I says, "they certingly do 'ave fine 'eads of 'air them kings and queens," as no wonder, 'avin' to stand bare-'eaded in the open hair, as you see 'em in them picters, and some on 'em 'avin' to ride thro' the town with nothink on but a 'ead of 'air, like the lady at Coventry on 'er bare-backed steed, as goes thro' Coventry once a-year. Now, I've 'eard say as Peeping Tom got struck blind for a-darin' to look out of the winder at 'er, as certingly wasn't decent behaviour.

So Miss Tredwell, she says, "Oh! Mrs. Brown, 'ow can you be so coarse a illudin' to sich subjects

afore the oppersite sect," for we was a-settin' all together over our tea a-chattin' agreeable.

Brown, he, in course, jined agin me, so I didn't say no more; but next time as that impident minx 'as the cramps, she may 'oller for me, as she won't find a-gettin' out of my bed in a 'urry agin for 'er.

It was agreed as we was to go to Wersales in the mornin', as Mrs. Wells said as she were glad 'ad been put off, thro' 'avin' not 'ad 'er things as was lost in the train till that werry day, and certingly 'ad not been a figger for to go to no grand sights.

I don't think as ever I did 'ear quite sich a grumbler as that old Wells; the row as he made over 'is meals, a-findin' fault with everythink, a-sayin' as the 'am were too salt, and the tea not strong, and the coffee thick, as were not true, for I'm as partickler as anybody; and tho', of course, things wasn't as nice as if you'd only a small family, they was all good and wholesome, and quite as good as ever he got at 'ome; for I'm sure there was 'is betters there a-takin' of tea and cold meat quite thankful, as it's wonderful they could supply such a party so well; and while we was at tea, there was a large party in the next room, as were a school a-singin' beautiful all together, and werry nice it sounded. But somehow I was a little tired,

went to bed in good time, well a-knowin' as I'd a 'ard day's work afore me.

I never did see nothink grander in my life than that Notter Dam, as is the big Paris church, and somethink like one, too, and that beautiful kep', and all lovely, though Miss Tredwell kep' a-runnin' on it down, and a-sneerin' at, and sayin' as she didn't 'old with it.

I says, "In my opinion you did ought for to stop outside as ain't fit to be in a sacred place like this, as parties is a-sayin' of their prayers in, and you a-goin' on like that."

"Oh," she says, "it's all superstition."

I says, "And what do you think as they would say about your way." I says, "If you don't like it you can leave it, as nobody asked you to come in;" and I says "if I'd my way, I'd precious soon 'ave you out."

Jest then Brown come up with us as 'ad been to the top of the tower, as I didn't seem to see a-goin' up myself, and as to Mrs. Archbutt, she quite 'ollered out at the bare thought, no doubt a-remem-berin' of her bonnet.

Well Brown 'ad been up all the way along with Archbutt, and when he ketched Miss Tredwell a-jeerin' and a-larfin' at the church, and give her sech a-settin' down as made 'er take to the sulks, and walks 'erself

out of the church, as it wasn't the place for 'er.

Of all the lovely things as ever you see, it's the clothes as the ministers wear, and the plate as is gold, and was all stole and throwed into the river by thieves in a net for to 'ide it, as marked the spot where they'd sunk it by a cork as was tied to the net, so in course didn't float down the stream, as is a tremenjous current, and so caught the eye of some one as was on the look-out, and if they didn't fish up all the lot, as was a nice sell for them rascally thieves, and glad I was to 'ear it, the wagabones, tho' it's no wonder, as they'd like to have them as is that waluable, not as they're too good, for nothink can't be when you comes to think what they're intended for, and werry solemn too; and they was a-beginnin' to sing lovely with the orgin, as I stopped and listened to, and who should we meet in that church but Mr. Ditcher, as I 'adn't seen afore not this time as we'd been in Paris, and glad to see 'im, a-knowin' as he'd show us everythink; for Brown, he'd walked off with Archbutt, thro' not a-carin' for to see them things.

When we got out there was Miss Tredwell a-sayin' as she was ready for to die with tiredness.

"Well, then," I says, "take a 'buss to where we've agreed to meet," as was that English place near the Magalin.

She says, as she shouldn't think of going about alone.

"Well, then," I says, "be civil and come along with us as is a-goin' to look at one or two things more as is near at 'and," and Mr. Ditcher 'ad promised to take us to, as is 'is good-natured ways; so we went for to see the Pally de Justiss and the Saint Chapell, as one of them French kings brought from the 'Oly Land, as is werry ancient, and I'm sure the place as he did used to say 'is prayers in, as he could look thro' into the chapel by a little 'ole, was a nice dungeon of a place; and talkin' of dungeons, reminds me as Mr. Ditcher got us in for to see the Consurgery, where the poor dear French queen were kep' for two nights and a day afore they murdered 'er, by a-draggin' 'er on a cart to the scaffoldin', with 'ardly a rag to 'er back.

It give me quite a turn when I see the awful place, as it were, for to keep any one in, let alone a queen, as bore it all that meek, for I know werry well as I'd have tore them willins of soldiers' eyes out, as never left 'er alone a moment, but set there a-watchin' 'er, the undecent wagabones, as wasn't men, but devils, I do believe. I felt that sorry for 'er as I could 'ave kissed the ground as she trod upon, to think of what she must 'ave suffered, as I've seen the picters of 'er with a 'ead of 'air all piled up and powdered, a-settin' in state like a

queen, and then another as showed 'er in that dungeon a-waitin' for death, as must 'ave been a 'appy release indeed.

I 'ope as it wasn't wicked on me for to feel glad when they showed us the dungeon next to 'ern, where they shet up in 'is turn one of the 'ead willins 'as 'ad done it all in the name of Robberspear, as died in hagony with 'is jaw-bone broke afore they cut 'is good-for-nothink 'ead off; and I do say, if I was the French I wouldn't allow none of them picters to be showed as represents them awful times, as is a downright disgrace to 'uman natur', as is bad enough, goodness knows.

I was glad to get out of that place, as is a prison now, and I see them prisoners thro' a gratin' as was a-waitin' for their dinner or somethink to eat; and it give me quite a turn to look at 'em, and took werry good care not to be out last, for fear as I might be left behind, as I well remembers a-'earin' of a tale of a party as went down somewheres underground for to see the cutty-combs, and whatever he could want to see 'em for I can't think, as ain't showed no more now-a-days, and if he didn't get shet in thro' a-lingerin' behind and not keepin' up with the guide, and wasn't found for months arter, crouchin' behind a door, as 'ad eat 'is own shoulders away with famishin' 'unger, as is a sharp thorn and will drive parties to eat one another, the same as

I've 'eard aboard ship, as is their 'abits when lost at sea; tho' for my part I'd rather starve to death a thousand times than eat a fellow-creetur.

We'd jest come out of Notter Dam when Mr. Ditcher says to me, "Mrs. Brown, mum, 'ave you see the Morg?"

I says, "Whoever's he?"

"Oh!" he says, "it's the French dead-'ouse, where they puts any one as comes to a accidental end, and them, p'raps, as 'as met with foul play."

"Well," I says, "them ain't things as I cares to see."

"Oh," he says, "you're that near as you'd better step in."

So I says, "Werry well," for Mr. Ditcher he knows Paris that well, and all the dodges, thro' 'avin' lived there over twenty years and married to a French woman, and he'd know'd Brown some years afore, and was that glad for to see us in Paris; and if it 'adn't been for 'im I shouldn't never 'ave seen or know'd 'arf as I do know about Paris, as is one of the dodgiest places as ever you 'eard tell on.

So, I says to 'im, "Mr. Ditcher, if you takes me there, I'll go." So Miss Tredwell said as she wouldn't for the world, no more wouldn't Mrs. Archbutt. So me and Mr. Ditcher went in together, and it certingly did give me a turn when I see

three mortal dead bodies laid there in a glass case, a-lookin' that frightful as made me feel sick at 'art, for I couldn't bear to see them layin' there dead drowned, and all their poor clothes a-'angin' over their 'eads, as showed as want 'ad drove many a one to do it; and I was a-sayin' to Mr. Ditcher, "Ah! if them clothes could speak they'd tell many a tale of misery and want;" and I says, "let's come away, poor things, for we can't do 'em no good, and it's thankful as I am as there ain't no one there as I can indemnify."

Just as we was turnin' away we met an old woman with 'er grey 'airs a-streamin' from under 'er cap, as come a-rushin' in and looked that distracted as I couldn't but stare at 'er, and says to Mr. Ditcher, "Look there," when she give a scream as went right thro' me, and fell flat on the stones with that crash just at my feet as made me nearly jump out of my skin. Mr. Ditcher and me picked 'er up, and if he didn't know 'er, and told me all about 'er arterwards, tho' fust we got 'er to the 'ospital, and then he said as it were that melancholy, and he know'd it all to be true, for it 'appened in the house as he were a-livin' in, and he know'd 'er well, as were a poor widder with a only boy as she doted on, and would work 'erself to death, poor soul, for to let 'im 'ave pocket-money, as was kep' short thro' bein' in the army, as is not allowed much

more than three farthin's a-day, as don't go far in tobacco and beer.

But he was the pride of 'er 'art, and took that pleasure in seein' 'im in 'is uniform, as I'm sure I should be werry sorry for to see a boy of mine in, as is a disfigurement, and I can't a-bear the sight of them red breeches; and as to bein' a sojer, it was nearly the death of me when my Joe listed, but the French is different, thro' bein' a blood-thirsty race; and Mr. Ditcher said as this poor old soul seemed quite cut up when 'er son's time was up as never settled down steady like, but wouldn't take no pleasure in 'is work, as were a cabinet-maker by trade; but, law, 'owever can you expect any one to settle down to work arter bein' a sojer.

Well, this young feller he fell in love with a werry nice young gal, as 'er father wouldn't 'ear on it, and 'ad agreed as she was to marry another party, as she didn't care nothink about; and the poor gal she took it so to 'art, as for to go and pison 'erself. And Mr. Ditcher said as he never should forget that young man's face the night as she died, as was only four days ago; and he come into 'is mother's shop, and kissed 'er, a-lookin' ghastly white, and says, "Good-night, mother."

She says, "Where are you a-goin' to-night, Antoine?"

He only says, "To bed—to sleep;" and out he

goes, but never went to bed, and only to 'is long sleep, for he didn't come in to breakfast in the mornin'; and then some one come and told the poor old lady, as the young gal, her son's sweet'art, 'ad pisoned 'erself the night afore.

Then she says, "My boy is dead too; I know it—I know it;" and if she didn't rush out of the place, and went down to that Morg, but there wasn't no body of her son there. But she wouldn't give it up, but come again twice that day, and the fust thing the next mornin', without finding 'im, as was only brought in just afore we went in to see it; and that's 'ow it were as we see 'er.

I do believe I felt as much for that poor soul as if she 'adn't been a foreigner, as 'er poor pale, distracted face 'aunted me; and I says, when I got 'ome, as I'd never go to see no more Morgs, and, before the week was out, Mr. Ditcher told me as the poor old lady were dead, and no doubt a broken 'art, as I'm sure it would be my death for to see a boy of mine a-layin' in that dreadful place, as I can't get the sight on out of my eyes night nor day.

And we see the 'ospital, as looks like a pallis, and thousands of poor creeturs a-sufferin' there, as is called God's House; and so it is, for comfortin' and relievin' them as is afflicted, and I'm sure them good sisters as nusses them day and night for love,

is a beautiful sight alone, and to think of anyone a-doin' on it all for strangers, as is a painful duty by a friend; and that quiet and nice in their ways, as is sich a comfort in a sick-room, and not to be neglected as some of our sick, as whatever can you expect when some of them 'ospital nusses did used to be downright wretches, as would rob and ill-use the sick, as 'appened to poor 'Liza Burress many years ago, as I remember, in a 'ospital, as died neglected, and only found out thro' a poor gal as was in the same ward as told of their goin's on; but there's some, I'm told, as is werry good, and improvin' every day.

Miss Tredwell, she didn't seem for to care about the 'ospital, and she says, "I do believe, Mrs. Brown, as you're a downright reg'lar nuss."

"Well," I says, "and what if I am—where's the 'arm? and you may be glad on my 'elp yet afore you dies;" and I walks on, and we leaves the 'ospital; and I makes my obedience to one of them sisters, and says, "It's sorry I am, mum, not for to be able to tell you, as I thinks, you're a hornament to your sect," as Mr. Ditcher told 'er in French, and she shook 'ands with me quite friendly, as I felt more proud on than if she'd been a queen.

By the time as we'd done that we was reg'lar done up, and glad for to ketch a 'buss as took us

to the Magalin; and there we met the others as 'ad been elsewheres, and glad I was for to 'ave a good draught of beer and some cold meat, for I can't stand the wish-wash wittles and drink as the French lives on, as don't seem to 'ave no strength in it, and some on it is downright muck, for never shall I forget bein' perswaded for to taste a snail, as I shouldn't have knowed what it was to look at it all but the shell.

Mr. Ditcher, he was along with us, and said as they was considered fine things for the chest, as I'd got a nasty cold on myself, so I agreed as I'd 'ave some. It give me a bit of a turn when they brought 'em, and a little fork a-purpose to pick 'em out with; and nasty black stuff it looked as we did pick out, and we all agreed as we'd taste 'em together. So Mr. Ditcher, as is full of his fun and uncommon good company, he says, "Now, then, all together," and we all put the bits as we 'ad on our forks into our mouths simultanous. I never did taste nothink like it, and 'opes as I never shall. I didn't look at nobody else, but I rushes to the winder, and so did all the rest; and it wasn't till we'd 'ad brandy round as one on us could touch a bit more dinner; but I will say as them frogs as they eats is nice, that delicate as you might think it was fine small rabbit; not as they're things as I cares about, nor yet about rabbits, partickler them

Ostend ones, as I don't believe is rabbits at all in my 'art.

I never didn't taste no mice, as I'm sure I never should fancy, as must always be a faint smell, tho' I've 'eard say thro' a uncle of mine as 'ad been in Cheyney as them Chinee would eat puppy-dog pie and relish it, but good beef and mutton is all as I cares about, with lamb and weal occasional for a change, tho' I will say as you gets beautiful meat in France, tho' a frightful price, nearly two shillin's a-pound, as is the reason as many is drove to mice and frogs. Their wegetables, they're delicious, but most parties wants a bit of meat once a-day.

Never shall I forget the row as I 'ad at one of them restorongs at the Exhibishun over a bit of beef as they brought me that coarse and underdone, quite soddened as I didn't fancy; for me and Mrs. Archbutt felt peckish at one, and agreed as we'd take a somethink. Well, I was for Spiers and Pond's, but she says, "Oh, no;" she says, "we can 'ave English dinners when at 'ome; let's dine *à la mode de Parry*."

I says, "None of your *à la mode* for me," as is a thing as I never would touch, not even out of the *à la mode* beef shops in London, let alone Paris.

"Oh," she says, "we'll have a somethink as is ready," and so I looks at the cart as I couldn't make nothink on, and the more that waiter jabbered, the

more I didn't understand. So I says, "Oh, bother, stop that," I says, "roast beef," and off he goes, and werry soon come back with two plates on it, and a lump of mashed tater by the side, as must 'ave been let overboil, and then won't never mash, but when I see the meat, I says, "What you call?"

He says, "Ah. Oh, yes."

As was all the English as the idjot know'd, tho' they'd wrote up "English spoke 'ere."

I says, "Whatever do you call it?" a-pintin' to my plate.

He says, "Rosbif."

I says, "Never," a-shakin' my 'ead.

He says, "May wee say filly." I could swear them was 'is words.

I says, "I thought so; filly indeed. I won't eat none of your 'orseflesh," I says. "Come on, Mrs. Archbutt."

Well, that waiter, he danced about us and says, "pay ya." I says, "Jammy." He calls another as ketched 'old of my redicule. I give 'im a shove as sent 'im agin another as were carryin' a lot of plates, as sent 'im backwards on a table full of glasses, and they fetches in one of them police, and a interpreter as stood me out as filly meant roast beef. So I had to pay, for there wasn't no standin' agin that fellow, as would swear anythink, for I do believe as in that Exhibishun they was all alike,

them as would say anythink but their prayers, and them they whistles, as the sayin' is; and all I've got to say is, I shan't trust myself in none of them restorongs no more alone, for I'm sure that waiter, he looked as if he could 'ave murdered me, and I do think as he would, only I'd got 'old of my umbreller that firm as looked determined, and so I was to 'ave give 'im a topper if he'd touched me agin, for as I says to him, "Paws off, Pompey," as is French, I knows, for I don't 'old with bein' pulled about by nobody, let alone with their greasy fingers, as left a mark on my sleeve as it was, tho' certingly they are beautiful clean in the general way, and their linen got up that white as never can be washed in cold water, the same as you may see them washerwomen in boats on the river by the 'undred a-washin' away, as wouldn't suit me, and it seems to me as them poor women works 'arder than the men a-sweepin' the streets, and sich like, as is work only fit for slaves, not but what some of them French is nearly as dark as niggers; and there was a young gal in the train with us the day as we was a-goin' to Wersales, as was a downright tea-pot, with a turbin on the top of 'er black wool, as spoke French jest like the white ones, as is what they never can do with the English, as shows as they must be all the same; for I'm sure the langwidge of them Christshun Minstrels is downright

foolishness, and I've 'eard 'em speak the same myself down by the Docks, when they wasn't up to their larks, with their bones and banjos, and all manner.

They may talk about weather, but all as I've got to say of all the weather as ever I know'd, this 'ere Paris beats it 'oller—a furniss one day and a freezin' the next.

I thought as it were too early for summer things afore I left 'ome, so wore winter ones, as was nearly my death with 'eat, for I did think as I should 'ave melted dead away and yet afraid to change; but it was that warm that I says to Miss Tredwell, "I do think as I must wear my yaller musling to-morrow." She says, "Oh do, for I'm sure you'll look so nice in a musling." But, law, when I come to get it out you'd 'ave thought as it 'ad been in the dirty-clothes bag, it was that dreadful tumbled; but the young woman as waited on us as were that civil she said as it could be ironed out easy, and took it accordin'.

Miss Tredwell she says to me, "You ain't never a-goin' to wear that musling without a jupong."

I says, "Whatever do you mean?"

"Oh," she says, "one of them spring petticoats."

I says, "No crinoline for me."

She says, "Not a crinoline, but," she says, "I'll

show you," and runs to 'er room and fetches one as was only a crinoline on a small scale arter all.

"There," she says; "it's jest enough to make your musling set helegant, and you're welcome to it."

I says, "What are you a-goin' to do without it?"

"Oh," she says, "my dress as I'm a-goin' to wear ain't made for it, so do take it, for I shan't wear it no more."

Well, I must say as when I come to put that musling on it look werry dabby, for in ironin' of it out they'd been and damped it, so as it was as limp as a rag; so I let Miss Tredwell put me on the jupong, and I wore only a light jacket as looked werry nice, tho' I must say as it were werry summery, but it was a 'ot sun tho' 'eavy clouds about.

I thought as I must 'ave bust out a-larfin' in Mrs. Archbutt's face, for if she 'adn't gone and put on a 'at the same as Mrs. Wells 'ad got, and a new wig as curled at the back. Miss Tredwell, she 'ad words with Mrs. Wells jest as we was a-startin', thro' a-sayin' as Mrs. Wells 'ad got 'er parysol, as they'd bought 'em new together the day before.

Of all the hold hasses as ever I did know it's that Archbutt, as will always contradict you about the shortest way, and I'm sure the time as he kep' us a-waitin', with 'im a spreadin' the plan of Paris up

agin a wall and a-disputin' about the way. Brown and Wells 'ad started, so I says to Miss Tredwell, "Let's go by the train, the same as we did yesterday;" and so she agreed, and while old Archbutt was a-talkin' we sloped on the quiet, as the sayin' is, and got to the train.

As soon as ever I were at the station I felt the wind a-blowin' that cool thro' my musling as I says, "Miss Tredwell, I must go back for a warm shawl."

We'd took our tickets, and jest at that moment in come the train, and Miss Tredwell says, "I'll lend you my shawl," and 'urries me down the stairs.

Of all the ill-convenient trains to get into it's them second-class French, for the sides is so steep and the steps that narrer as I couldn't 'ardly climb up at all; but the carriages inside is comfortable, tho' narrer.

Of all the roundabouts it is that way of goin' to the Exhibishun, as seems for to whisk you all round Paris, tho' it gets you there at last.

We was determined, Miss Tredwell and me, for to 'ave a good look at the jewels, as is splendid. I never did see nothin' more lovely than a lot as belongs to a Countess.

"Ah," I says, "fine feathers makes fine birds, but they don't make 'appy ones;" so I 'opes as them diamons isn't got at the price of a 'artache, for I'm

told them French 'usbands is a awdacious lot, a-goin' on all manner, and a-givin' of them diamons to their favorites by the bushel, and often a-neglectin' of their wives.

I says to Miss Tredwell, "Do look there," I says, "'ow careless, to be sure, for to leave them lovely jewels there," for a-layin' outside on the top of one of them glass-cases there was diamons and rubies, as big as the top of your finger, as anybody might take.

The gentleman as was a-standin' there were very perlite, and he smiles and draws his 'and along the case, and if them jewels wasn't inside stuck to the glass.

"Lor," I says, "I could 'ave swore they could 'ave been picked up."

"Yes," says he, "and you ain't the only one as thought the same, for a lady come by the other day, and throwed 'er 'ankercher over them, a-askin' the price of a bracelet for to take up attention, a thinkin' to take 'em."

"What," I says, "collar the lot? Eh! I hope you don't call sich a individual a lady, as must be only a fieldmale, whether English or French."

That gentleman only smiled, and were that perlite as to show me some lovely things as the Hemperor 'ad bought for 'is good lady; and I'm sure nobody didn't ought to be seen in such things

but queens and princesses, as, in course, must be that dressed for to look like theirselves.

For my part, I do think as the imitations is a deal more showy than the real ones, and, of course, you'd get more for your money; but then, in case of a rainy day, where are you? whilst them lords and dukes can't never be 'ard up, as long as they've got them things to make the money on at a pinch.

I don't think as ever I did see sich a lot of bedsteads, and sideboards, and one thing and the other, as parties can't know what to do with if they 'ad 'em; and altogether the place is that confusin' that you're quite bewildered, and as to findin' your way about, why you're always a-comin' back to the same place; leastways, we was, for that Miss Tredwell would keep a-leadin' me wrong. And there was a pulpit as was stuck in the middle of one passage as we was always a-comin' to, till I got that wild as I couldn't bear it no longer, so takes my own way, and walks thro' the picters, and come out in the middle ile like; and glad I was for to see a seat, and set down all of a 'urry for there wasn't many wacant. I 'adn't no idea as it sloped back slippy like, and there I was a-settin' without my legs a-touchin' the ground.

I was that tired as I didn't care about nothink, and see a good many idjots grinnin', as is their

French ways, for they will laugh at anythink, as is what I calls a friverlous lot.

So I says to Miss Tredwell, "Don't take no notice, let 'em grin;" and we'd set there, I should think, 'arf a 'our, when who should come up but Brown and Mr. Wells.

So Brown says, "Hallo! Martha, draw it mild!"

I says, "Whatever do you mean?"

"Why," he says, "you're a-settin' showin' your legs like anythink."

"Well," I says, "they're my own."

"Yes," he says, "but you needn't come the Menken over us; for, tho' werry good legs in their way, they ain't much to look at."

Jest at the same moment up come Mrs. Archbutt and Mrs. Wells, as both exclaimed, "For goodness' sake, Mrs. Brown, do get up, you're such a figger! Why, we've seen your legs for ever so far off, a good way over your boot tops."

I was rather put out by Mrs. Archbutt's ways, as she was evident put out at me 'avin started afore 'er.

So I says, "My figger, mum, is p'raps as good as others, tho' I mayn't 'ave on a new 'ead of 'air and a 'at," and was a-goin' to get up, but, law, it was a 'ard struggle for me to get on my legs, thro' the seat bein' leather and that deep back, and I thought

as I heerd somethink go snap in that petticoat, but give myself a shake, and all seemed right; so I walks on, and give Mrs. Archbutt a look, for I see 'er a-sneerin'; and jest as I were a-crossin' of the open court, I give a stumble thro' a-ketchin' my foot in somethink as I couldn't make out, and away I went down such a crash on all fours; and when they picked me up, there was that jupong as 'ad slipped down round my feet, and throwed me over.

What to do I didn't know, for there wasn't no cloak-room, nor nothink near at hand, and there I was obligated to walk ever so far all among the crowd, a-carryin' of that jupong, as I'd 'ave throwed away with pleasure, but didn't dare to there. And when I got to what they calls the westiare, that jupong was that broke that it couldn't be wore no more, as I'd been and ketched my foot in it; and if that Miss Tredwell didn't 'ave the face to say as it were worth twelve shillin's, and 'ad cost eighteen, as I don't believe a word on, for I've seed them ticketed ten over and over agin. But Mrs. Wells, she stood my friend, and managed for to pin me up; but I 'ad to go 'ome as soon as I'd took some refreshment, and 'ad to carry the jupong. And if Miss Tredwell didn't expect me to pay 'er twelve shillin's; but I says, "I'll give you eight, as it's more than it's worth, and never

wanted to wear it." And I do believe it was only 'er art as made 'er lend it me, a-'opin' as I might spile it, as she wanted to get rid on thro' being quite gone out.

I always did 'ate borrerin' clothes or lendin' 'em either, as always ends unpleasant, the same as my black welwet cape as I lent to Brown's sister and never see a westment on it agin, as she said as it were took off 'er arm aboard of a Gravesend steamer, as in my opinion she's been and made away with it and won't tell the truth 'onest.

I quite took more to Mrs. Wells arter that day, and 'er and me often 'ad a friendly chat and suited one another, for them others would go a-flyin' off to that Exhibishun with their breakfasts in their throats, and 'er and me did used to take it more quiet, and it was the next day but one as I'd 'ad that mess about the jupong, as 'er and me agreed for to go into Paris by the 'buss, as was got werry nigh at 'and. Well, tho' not dressed over light I felt chilly, and says to 'er, "I'm sure it must be cold out of doors."

As soon as I'd got out I found as the weather 'ad changed, and afore I'd been out long I was downright a-perishin' with cold, and says to Mrs. Wells as I should like a "petty ware," as is what they calls a drop of brandy. She said as she should like the same; so I says, "Let's

stop a bit, and we can soon ketch the 'buss up;" so we stops at one of them caffees, and says to the garsong, "Doo petty wares."

He says somethink gibberish like, and brings in the bottle. I don't think as ever I felt more chilled thro', so I says to 'im, "O sho," as he understood, and brought some 'ot water, and Mrs. Wells and me 'ad a small tumbler a-piece. When we'd 'elped ourselves, that garsong, he come and took away the brandy, as we 'adn't took much out on. Well, we set a-talkin' and a-sippin' of the liquor, as wasn't over strong, till I says, "This won't do; we shan't fall in with them if we don't mind;" and up I jumps and gives the feller one of them cart wheels, as they calls five francs; he says a somethink, and 'olds up 'is two fingers.

I says, "What do you mean?" and he goes and fetches the brandy-bottle, as was almost empty, all but a drop, not more than a tea-spoonful at the bottom.

I says, "We've never drunk all that!"

He begins to jabber and scream; so I goes up to the lady as was a-settin' at the counter, with 'er 'air done werry nice, and bottles all afore 'er, and shows 'er the bottle, and says "Jammy," as means never. I couldn't make nothink of 'er, and if that waiter didn't fetch a fat man out of another place as had been playin' dominoes, and they both begun at me.

Mrs. Wells, she says, "Oh, pay 'em, and let's go."

I says, "Seven francs, as is nearly six shillin's for two sixpenn'orths of brandy and water, never! Jammy," I kep' a-sayin', and if that wagabone of a waiter didn't ketch up my parysol as was a-lyin' on the little marble table, and so I says, "You give it up, or I'll make you," and shakes my fist at 'im; and if that other party didn't call in one of them surjons-de-will, as nearly scared Mrs. Wells to death, and she took and paid the two francs.

I give it 'em pretty 'ot, I can tell you, as I'm sure understood what I meant thro' me a-makin' grimaces, jest like their own ways of goin' on, till that feller as were the proprietor, I fancies, ketched 'old on me by the shoulders, and turned me out of the place, and jest at the door who should come up but a young man as was a-livin' along with us, as spoke French, and if them awdacious wretches didn't show 'im the brandy-bottle, and say as we'd emptied it, as I can swear only took two of them "petty wares" a-piece, and I shouldn't 'ave minded it 'arf so much only I'm pretty sure as that young man didn't believe me; and when we met Brown at the place, as we'd appointed, the fust thing as he said was, "Well, old gal, you've been 'avin' a pretty good turn at the brandy," as made that young man roar

with larfture, and I was that put out as I said I'd go 'ome at once, and would 'ave done it, too, only didn't like to leave Mrs. Wells, as can't a-bear Mrs. Archbutt, and won't speak to Miss Tredwell, as is certingly downright sickening, with 'er hairs a-pretendin' to speak French as she don't know no more on than a cow, in my opinion, and a-goin' on that foolish as made me blush for 'er, for I can't a-bear anythink as is bold in a fieldmale, partikler among foreigners, as is only too glad to pick 'oles in any one's coats.

It was agreed as we'd go to Wersales in a carriage, the lot on us, as was the Archbutts and Wellses, Miss Tredwell, with Brown and me, and a werry nice gentleman, as said as he'd accompany us for to explain things, but that old Archbutt he kep' on a-botherin' about goin' by rail, so he was give in to; not by my will, for he's jest the werry one as I likes to contradict.

I must say as I thinks I was dressed nice, for I'd got on things as made me look uncommon genteel, which was a blue musling and a white jacket, with pink ribbins run thro' it, and my leghorn bonnet, as the ribbins was ironed out and looked quite new, as it did ought to for only fresh trimmed at the hend of last summer, and only on my 'ead twice, but 'ad got a good deal crushed thro' that hass of a cabman, a-lettin' the big box fall on it, and with my

white lace wail, as always looks like a lady; and sorry I am as I dressed like that, for I'd 'ave give the world for my coburg cloth and welwet cape afore we got 'ome from Wersales.

The way as they put you into them waitin' rooms, as is like pens at the railways, is werry aggrawatin', and parties kep' a-starin' at me, and some on 'em called me the belly Hanglaise, and some on 'em shoved uncommon rude when the doors was opened for to let us on to the platform; and when we'd got into the carriage Miss Tredwell says to me, "I wonder, Mrs. Brown, as you dresses that conspicuous, for everyone was a-starin' at you."

I says, "Me dress conspicuous! well, I like that, partikler from you," for she was a reg'lar guy, with one of them red Grabidaldi jackets on, and a yaller musling skirt, and a thing like a cheese-plate on the top of 'er 'ead, trimmed round with beads, for a 'at, and a lump of 'air stuck on at the back of 'er 'ead for a chignon, as she wanted to make believe was 'er own 'air, when, bless you, she ain't got six 'airs of a side growin' nat'ral, and I'm sure that thing looked like a hairy deformity a-growin' out the back of 'er 'ead, with a face as is as ugly as sin, in a pair of spectacles into the bargin, as of course she can't 'elp thro' not 'avin' made 'erself, as the sayin' is.

We was werry pleasant in the train all but for Miss Tredwell, as got a-talkin' to a minister as were Henglish, with a lot of boys with 'im, as was dressed up like a Catholic priest, leastways somethink like, as said he were a Catholic, as made a Irish party pitch into 'im, along with Miss Tredwell, one a one side and the other the other, till Brown says, "I'd advise you all to drop it and let the gentleman alone, and let 'im be what he likes."

"Yes," says the Irish party, "but he says he's a priest and he ain't."

Miss Tredwell, she says, "If he's a minister let 'im talk like one."

So I says to the Irish party, I says, "You didn't believe he was a priest, now did you?"

She says, "Not a bit on it."

"Well, then," I says, "you ain't 'urt;" and as to Miss Tredwell, she believes jest what she likes, whatever any minister may tell 'er, so it don't much signify what he talks about, for if she don't like it she can lump it, as the sayin' is.

So I says, "We're out for to spend a pleasant day, and not to interfere with one another's religions, as ain't nobody's affairs but our own."

So Miss Tredwell says, "He's a-livin' in the same 'ouse along with me, and a-goin' on with them boys jest like a papist, as quite puts me out."

I says, "You must be touchy for that to put you

out;" but I think as she was put out really, with 'er faceache as were that bad as she said as the train 'ad give 'er cold.

I says to 'er, "You'll escuse me, but," I says, "it's your teeth as wants a-lookin'."

"No," she says, "they don't," quite short; "my teeth's fust-rate."

I says, "Then they may be useful, but is not hornamental," thro' bein' a reg'lar set of cloves in 'er mouth.

"Well," she says, "you can't talk about teeth, as has only got one."

I says, "You'll escuse me, my back ones is sound, tho' only one left in front, thro' a clothes prop a-fallin' on 'em."

She only give a sneerin' smile like, and turns away 'er 'ead; but she got up the next mornin' with 'er face swelled up like a lump of dough.

There was a werry nice old French gentleman as spoke English in the carriage with us, thro' 'avin' of a English wife, as I couldn't cotton to at all, as the sayin' is, for she would keep a-runnin' down England and the English, as put me out.

Certingly, Wersales is a werry fine place, tho' dismal for to look at, and decided over-growed. They may well call it Wersales, for I never did taste sich a disgustin' glass of beer, as served me

right for 'avin' of it, for I'd been caught with their beer afore, as filth is the word.

I never did see sich miles of picters as there is at Wersales, and I says to Mrs. Archbutt, "It's all werry fine to paint them battles, but, in course, they wasn't never fought in this world."

So the old Frenchman as spoke English, he says, "Oh, yes, they are the victories of France all over the world."

"Yes," says 'is wife, a-chimin' in, "they've conquered every nation."

I says, "You'll escuse me, mum, but they've never conquered one."

She says, "Yes, every one, and will again."

I says, "Rubbish!" and walks on a-talkin' to Mrs. Archbutt, thro' not a-wantin' to 'ear 'er; but she would keep on at it, sayin', "France for ever!" till at last I says, "Oh," I says, "Waterloo!" for I was savage, not a-thinkin' as her French 'usband would 'ave 'eard me, thro', in course, not wishin' to 'urt their feelin's.

He flew out at me like ravin' tigers, a-sayin' as the English never did conquer at Waterloo. "No, no," he says, "no, it was a grand retreat; but the French was never beat."

"Oh," I says, "indeed; then 'ow about Sent 'Elener?"

The temper as that man showed, and 'is wife

too, as I couldn't stand it from 'er. I says, "Your 'usband may go on, thro' bein' a benighted foreigner; but as to you, I ain't no patience with you, as did ought to be ashamed on yourself, for if you like to marry a foreigner, do it in welcome, 'owever old, as I wishes 'im joy on you;" and I says, "I don't care for none of you, as is a mean-sperrited lot!" for all the English turned agin me. But I says, "Whatever you may say, Waterloo is Waterloo; and all as I've got to say is as we did beat 'em, and we'll do it agin if there's any occasions;" and off I was a-walkin' all of a 'urry, a-quite forgettin' about them boards bein' that slippy, and away goes my 'eels, and I felt I was a-fallin'; so I ketches 'old on the fust thing for to save myself by, as proved to be that old Frenchman's coat-tail, as gave way with a rip up the back, and down we goes together.

His wife, she says, "Let 'im go, you old wixen!" and in tryin' to lift 'im up, down she goes too, and there we was all three a-sprawlin', and the others a-larfin' that wiolent as they couldn't 'elp us up.

Two of them men as looks arter the rooms come up a-lookin' werry sour, and speakin' that gruff as didn't seem to see no joke in it, and I'm sure I didn't. So I says, "I'm shook dreadful, and it's a shame to polish 'em up like this, for whoever is to

walk on sich boards as is like lookin'-glass and ice for slippiness, and I do believe as you does it a-purpose."

Jest then Brown come back, and says, "Whatever are you a-settin' on the floor for?"

"Well," I says, "I should like to set 'ere a bit, for I'm that tired, and I can't keep my feet." So he ketched 'old on me, and give me a jerk up as pretty nigh knocked my bonnet off.

I says, "Let me ketch 'old of your harm, for walk I can't;" and what with 'im a-'oldin' me, and a-takin' werry short steps, I managed for more to totter than to walk thro' them rooms, as is a deal too long to please me; and Brown wasn't over-pleasant company, as give me a reg'lar jobation, thro' me a-tellin' 'im about my sayin' Waterloo.

So he says, "Don't you let me 'ear you jaggerin' no more about sich a subject, as you didn't never ought to mention afore the French; and you did ought, at your time of life, to 'ave more sense in your 'ead than illude to."

I says, "I didn't go to do it."

"Well, then," he says, "no more on it, if you please."

I was that tired with walkin' about that pallis, and glad I was for to go into the gardings and see the grand hose as they plays the water-works with,

and there I see the old Frenchman and 'is wife as glared at me.

Well, parties was a-rushin' all one side of them fountings, so I says to Mrs. Archbutt, "Let's come this way, as no one else ain't a-goin'," and jest then they took and turned on the water that strong, as the wind took, and it come slap over me and Mrs. Archbutt, and 'arf drowned us.

She was in a towerin' rage, and said as I'd done it for the purpose, as I'm sure I'd got quite as much on it as 'er, but she's been that cross-grained for ever so long, so she must get pleased agin, and off she walked a-mutterin', "Old fool."

We was a-goin' to dine at the Pally Royal. So I says, "We don't want only a bit of lunch," so I says to Miss Tredwell, as was walkin' alone thro' 'avin' 'ad words with every one, "What would you like?"

"Oh," she says, "somethink light, pastry like." So we goes into a pastrycook's shop on our way to the train as we was a-walkin' to slow along with another lady as 'ad jined us thro' bein' in the same 'ouse, and a-talkin' friendly.

We 'ad a few small cakes and a glass of the winergariest wine a-piece as ever I tasted, and if they didn't take and charge us 'arf-a-crown, leastways three francs, as is the same thing when you turns it into our money, as was a downright swindle,

and I wouldn't 'ave paid it, only I'd give the young girl a five-franc piece, so in course she collared the lot.

I couldn't make 'er understand much, but I kep' on a-sayin' "filloo," as I knows is French for thief, and walks out of the shop, as is a reg'lar set of 'orse leeches everywhere.

It's downright dreadful the price of everythink, and I'm sure if it wasn't as Mr. Cook manages wonderful for parties, nobody couldn't come to Paris at all, but things as Princes, and even the Prince of Wales 'isself 'ad to look to the money, and was drove to beer at the Exhibishun, as in course is a thing as he'd look down on in a gen'ral way as beneath 'im.

Wersales is a werry unpleasant pavement to walk on, and glad I was for to get to the train, where we met the others, and so got back to Paris in good time, as is a blessin', for I can't a-bear that shovin' and scrougin' for to get a train, as am always afraid of bein' pushed under the wheels, as would make short work of any one.

I must say as some of them picters about battles is werry grand, but you can see who does the work, for there was the kings and hemperors a-settin' quite easy on their 'osses, and them poor sojers a-bein' killed all round, and all I got to say, more fools them to go and fight over a thing as won't

bring them no good, but make widders and orphins, and you wouldn't ketch me a-fightin', not excep' any one was to come for to inwade us, and then I'd 'ave every man, woman, and child turn to, 'cos that's fightin' in self-defence; but to see them sojers a-rushin' on like wild beasts to kill their feller-creeturs, is enough to turn anyone sick, and I wouldn't be in their boots as orders it to be done, not for a trifle.

Them French dinners waries a good deal, and I'm sure as some of them as is cheapest is best, and a werry nice dinner we got for two francs and a-'arf in the Pally Royal, as ain't dear when you comes to think, tho' in course the wine ain't no great shakes, and requires you to take a "petty ware" or two arter it, as we did out in the gardings, as is werry well, but it 'ad turned that chilly, I may say cold, and there was Miss Tredwell, as required all 'er warm shawl for 'erself, thro' a 'owlin' with tooth-ache. So I says to the lady as I'd made friends with, "This won't suit me, I shall get 'ome." So she says, "So shall I."

"Ah," I says, "I dare say your pa's expectin' you," for I'd see 'er about the place with a old man.

She says, "That's my 'usband."

I says, "Oh, indeed." I says, "Some parties does look holder than their hages;" for I didn't know what to say, and felt as I'd put my foot in it.

So we left the rest on 'em, as said they was a-goin' somewheres; and off me and the lady goes to ketch the 'buss by what they calls the Bourse, and 'ad to wait there some time, thro' there bein' so many a-goin'. At last we was off, but not afore the rain begun; and as to the cold, I was downright perishin'; and them 'bussmen is that contrairy, for if he didn't take us ever so far wrong, and we 'ad to walk 'ome at least a mile in torrents of rain, and all as I was fit for was bed, arter a cup of 'ot tea, as was the only thing as I'd relished all day.

Brown he come in werry late, and said as they'd all been for to see 'orsemanship, at a surk, as they calls it.

"Well," I says, "you're welcome to go for me, as don't care about them things." But he says as it were wonderful. We was fast asleep as churches, as the sayin' is, and I was a-dreamin' of fightin' with that old Frenchman about Waterloo, and thought I was 'ammerin' away at 'is 'ead, as sounded 'oller; but when I was woke up, there was somebody a-'ammerin' somewheres, so I listens attentive, but didn't care for to get out of bed; and as to Brown, when I told 'im about it, he only says, "Let 'em 'ammer, as ain't at our door," and goes off.

But in the mornin' we 'eard the reason as they was a-'ammerin', for if Mrs. Archbutt 'adn't been and took the key of Miss Tredwell's door into 'er

room, so she couldn't get in, and Miss Tredwell 'ad to set up in the Sally Mangy all night; and a pretty rage she were in, for she declared as Mrs. Archbutt 'ad done it for the purpose, thro' their 'avin' quarrelled at the surk, as made Mrs. Archbutt leave fust; and when she got 'ome, went and collared Miss Tredwell's key, and pretended she didn't 'ear a sound all night, as must be as deaf as 'er 'usband. But I must say as it served Miss Tredwell right, for she'd a werry nice room next ourn as she would move out on, because she didn't like bein' so 'igh up, as she said it didn't sound well; a stuck-up hidjot, and a nice swelled face she'd got, as wasn't no improvement to her, and couldn't go to the Louver the next day, as she'd promised to, a-sayin' as she'd been, and could show 'em everythink worth seein', as is 'er blowin' ways; but she 'ad to take to 'er bed, and was glad for me to ferment 'er face with poppy-'eads, as give 'er ease; but I must say, of all the disagreeables as ever I did see, she's the worst, out and out. Sich a sour, discontented temper, and that conceited, as you'd think 'er a downright beauty, instead of a fright.

I didn't mean for to go to the Louver myself no more, but they all says to me, "Oh do come, Mrs. Brown, 'cos you've been afore, and can tell us all about it."

"Well," I says, "I ain't no objections, tho' it

would take wollums." So go we did, a party. As is certingly a noble place, and some of them picters is werry well, tho' I've 'eard say as they was stole, a good many on 'em, out of other countries, by old Boney, and a good many had to be give back.

What I likes best at the Louver is them royal robes as is a-'angin' up in glass cases; and there's a little shoe as belonged to that poor dear queen, with 'er 'ead cut off; and there's everythink as Bony-party did used to wear, down to 'is tooth-brush; all except what Madame Tusso 'ave got in Baker Street Bazaar, as is the best, for there's the carriage as he tried for to get away in, and the bed as he died in; and 'owever they can let 'im lay there in that state, as even the Duke of Wellin'ton 'isself went to look at 'im, as they'd better put in 'is tomb, as they've got all ready in the Invalids, as we're a-goin' to see, and no doubt a wonderful man, but why ever couldn't he stop at 'ome like this one, and set to work for rebuild the place, as must have wanted it in them days, as I've 'eard say they 'adn't a drop of water in the 'ouse, as wants many improvements still, tho' werry nice to look at outside, and certingly werry pretty, and all done up gay; and as to the furnishin', it looks that elegant lit up of a night, as is like fairy-land. But give me what's plain and wholesome afore all your finery, as is only gimcrack arter all. And the floors at that Louver

was as bad as Wersales for bein' slippery, and p'raps it's done for the purpose, for to prevent any one a-hookin' of it too sudden, as might be a-carryin' somethink off, and wouldn't never get far; leastways, I shouldn't, for I was a-slippin' about all the time, and wouldn't 'ave minded if I'd 'ad my umbreller, as is always a support, and done no 'arm to nothink, for I'm sure I shouldn't never 'ave took it off the ground.

But as I were a-sayin' about that Louver, it's a noble place, and done up all beautiful for to show to them kings and hemperors as is a-comin' on a wisit, one down and the other come on, as the sayin' is, 'cos, in course it wouldn't do for to 'ave a lot of 'em all together at a time as would lead to words, a-talkin' over their kingdoms, as they're all a-tryin' to do one another out on, and 'im as is the strongest will in course get his way, certingly this 'ere hempire 'ave a wonderful harmy of 'is hown. I don't know 'ow many millions, but the place reg'lar swarms with sojers, as is all to show off among them other kings, as no doubt makes them feel wild.

But the way as they gets the sojers is downright 'art breakin', as Mr. Ditcher was a-tellin' me they makes every one serve, a-tearin' on them away from their 'omes, like as they did a young man as he know'd as 'ad a aged mother for to support on a

sitivation of about eighty pounds a-year, as kep' 'em both respectable, and 'er one as 'ad seen better days, when he was drawed and 'ad to serve, and 'is place kep' open for 'im for a 'ole year, as he come back to quite pleased, but ketch 'em a-lettin' 'im go, and called 'im back for 'is four years as he 'ad to serve, and lost 'is place in course, and the poor old lady broke 'er 'art and died, and was of course a burden off 'is back, but he never settled down to no good, and was p'raps drove to the Morg in the end like a-many more.

I was that wild when I found as I might 'ave took my umbreller to the Louver, as would 'ave been a comfort there and come in useful, for as we was a-comin' out of it, it was a-rainin' 'ard, and should 'ave brought it all but for a party where we was a-stoppin', as is one of them as must put 'er oar in, as the sayin' is, and she says umbrellers ain't allowed in there, and so said every one, so I left mine. I must say as they do keep up them pallises beautiful night and day, as makes Buckingham Pallis look a dingy 'ole, and the gas a-burnin' beautiful and bright, as is quite a disgrace to us as inwented it; but I 'eard parties sayin' as they'd walked over us everywhere at the Exhibishun, and even cut us out with our own knives, as we did used to beat 'em at 'oller.

I says to Brown, "I don't think as I shall do that

'ere Exposishun much more, so should like a good day at it."

"Well," he says, "we'll start early to-morrer and finish it up."

I says, "I'm agreeable." So we was up with the lark, as the sayin' is, and went over to breakfast, and when we got into the Sally Mangy if all the chairs wasn't put with their faces down like agin the table, so the waiter he said as it were parties as 'ad come down 'arf dressed and done it for to secure the places; but the lady of the 'ouse she come in and see it and up and spoke like a lady, a-sayin' as it were not fair and she wouldn't 'ave it, and says to me, "Mrs. Brown, mum, pray take your place."

I says, "Oh this 'ere little side table will do werry well for us" as was in the winder; so down we set, and Mrs. Archbutt she come in jest then a-sayin' as Archbutt was that bad as he couldn't get up, so us three jest filled the table as the waiter brought us werry nice tea and 'ot rolls, leastways new, and 'am and heggs, as was fresh laid, and plenty of delicious butter as I quite enjoyed. Well, other parties come in and took their places at the other table, and jest then down come them parties as 'ad thought to 'ave 'em by turnin' down the chairs, and one party as was that one as was always interferin' and told me not to take my umbreller to the Louver.

She was one as know'd 'er way about, and she says to the waiter, as was a werry civil party, "That table was secured for me," a-pintin' to where we was a-settin'. He told 'er as fust come fust served was the rule. So she says, "Any one as 'ad the feelin's of a lady wouldn't 'ave took a table as was engaged."

I says, "Pray who are you to engage a table?" I says, "P'raps you'd like to 'ave the best of everythink, and fust turn."

She says, "That's my table, and if you was a lady you'd give it up."

I says, "If I was a fool, you mean, but," I says, "there ain't nothink green about me." Well, I do think as words would 'ave run 'igh, only some 'ad done breakfast and got up, and that flaunty thing set down and began a-finding fault with everythink. So I says to Mrs. Archbutt, "It's my opinion as them as lives in the cookshop line at 'ome gives theirselves the most hairs when out."

Oh, she did fly out, that party, and said as I was a gross insultin' of 'er, and she wouldn't set in the room with me; but she was too wide awake not to go on with 'er breakfast, and kep' a-glarin' at me with 'er mouth full of roll and 'am, as I didn't care about; but found arter as I'd 'it 'er 'ard thro' 'er bein' in the 'am and beef line, as, in course, I were unawares of, or I'd never 'ave illuded to the

subjec', as, of course, was a 'omethrust, as the sayin' is.

They tells me as that Exposishun is arranged in horder, but I'm blessed if I could make 'ead or tail on it, for I kep' a-wanderin' on, and seein' the same things over and over agin. Brown, he was that dead nuts on the machinery, as is, no doubt, werry wonderful, but don't suit me; so I agreed for to meet 'im at Spiers and Pond's, and me, and Mrs. Archbutt, and another lady, the same as we'd met at Wersales, went one way, and Brown another. As to Miss Tredwell, she was in that rage over 'er key as she wouldn't speak to nobody, and went back to 'er aunt and uncle; and when we met 'er in the Exposishun, only bowed distant and 'aughty in passin', as I'm sure didn't 'urt my feelin's.

Mrs. Archbutt, she was quite cheerful and 'appy all thro' bein' without 'er 'usband, as certingly is a aggrawatin' old hass. She kep' a-sayin', "Oh, come here!" and, "Oh, do look there!" till I says to 'er, "I ain't a-goin' bustin' about like this."

"Oh," she says, "I wants to see everythink."

"Well," I says, "you're old enough for to take care of yourself, and can meet us by and by." So off she walks, and me and that other lady in the name of Wilby was left alone, and was a-lookin' at them jewels; and I was a-speakin' about

anyone a-marryin' for them things without no affection, and I see 'er eyes full of tears.

"Ah!" she says, "many does it."

I says, "I've no patience with them, as 'ad better go to service."

She says, "You're right;" and then I remembered about 'er 'usband bein' that elderly, so I changes the subjec' sudden, thro' a-remarkin' as I'd 'eard say as there was kings and queens a-walkin' about jest for all the world like common people, and certingly if there was kings and queens they was common-lookin' enough, though I see a many a-givin' of theirselves hairs all hover the place.

I was a-walkin' about, and we come to one place where there was a many lookin' in; so I says, "What is it?"

"Oh," they says, "only some Turks a-makin' real coffee."

"Well," I says, "I never know'd as Turks made coffee, as I always thought grow'd."

"Oh," says a party, "they're a-makin' the real thing, as is well worth tastin'."

So Mrs. Wilby said, as 'er ead were that bad, as p'raps a cup of good strong coffee would do it good.

"Well," I says, "I've 'eard say that it is a fine thing for the 'ead."

So in we goes, and them Turks as was called Tunics, illudin', no doubt, to their 'abits, was very perlite, and brought us the coffee in a little cup, as I took a gulp at; and of all the beastliness as I got in my mouth, as were nothin' but 'ot water and coffee-grounds, as swaller I couldn't, so spit all over the place, as p'raps were not manners; but I'll teach them Tunics not to play no more of their games on me, as ain't one to stand no sich larks.

I see their eyes a-glowin' at me, as, no doubt, would 'ave liked to 'ave 'am-strung me on the spot, as they do their own wives, the willins, a-darin' for to tie a 'onest woman up in a sack, and drownd her. I should like for to see 'em try to get me into a sack, as I think they'd 'ave their work cut out.

I don't know what they charged for that beastliness of coffee, for Mrs. Wilby took and paid for it, and says, "Never mind."

She was that broken sperrit, as didn't seem for to mind nothink.

I ain't no doubt as all them buildin's as is about the Exposishun will be werry fine when finished, but they seems all in confusion now, and higgledy-piggledy, as the sayin' is, and Rooshuns and Prooshuns and them Germans, along with the Grecians and Swedes, as I did always used to think

meant turnips, thro' 'avin' 'eard Mr. Simpson, as was a large cow-keeper, speak on 'em often, but turned out 'uman bein's; and then there was them Denmarks, along with the Dutch, let alone Turks and infidels of all sorts, as put you in mind of Noah's Ark, as contained beasts of all sorts, and if it 'adn't been for lots of perlice all over the place, no doubt would 'ave been a-tearin' one another to bits like wild beasts, but certingly a wonderful sight, tho' too noisy for me, and glad I was when we got to Spiers and Pond's for a drop of beer, as cooled the mouth, and that perlite to me as you'd think I'd been a queen, as they says as they know'd me as well as Queen Wictoria, as they ain't sure is a-comin', but if she should will be on the quiet like me, as prefers it; for tho' she is a-cheerin' up a bit, poor dear, yet in course must feel to 'er life's end, as is becomin' in any woman, partikler when left comfortable and a grow'd up family.

The weather kep' a-changin' from cold to 'ot and 'ot to cold all the time as we was in Paris, for I was perished in my musling at Wersales, and werry nigh suffocated a-goin' out in my coburg cloth in a chary-bang, as they calls it, when we went a party for to see San Denney, as is a fine church, where they did used for to bury the kings and queens; and if them low-lived wagabones of a mob didn't go out in a Resolution and took and

pulled the werry dead out of their coffins and made a bonfire on them, and I'd put a few on the top on themselves, jest to see 'ow they liked it; and I do think as we'd seed nearly everythink as is worth seein', and all thro' them parties as took us about in them chary-bangs, as is werry convenient, thro' no dust a-flyin' along of the 'eavy rains as 'ad reg'larly deluged the roads, and made it werry unpleasant for me a-steppin' suddin off the kerb-stone and missed my foot, and down I come on all fours and got up a reg'lar mask of mud, as it's lucky was only sand, and didn't 'urt myself, tho' it didn't make my coburg look any the better, and was obligated to throw my gloves away, and shook my front off as fell over my eyes, and Mrs. Archbutt never told me on till it dropped, as is a nasty-tempered woman, and I don't know as ever I wishes to see any on 'em agin, tho' I must say I took to Mrs. Wilby, as made 'erself werry agreeable of a evenin' where we was a-stoppin', a-playin' the pianner, as was worth listenin' to, thro' 'avin' been a governess, tho' I'm sure for to 'ear some was downright strummin'; and as to Miss Tredwell a-singin' "Hever of Thee," I thought I should 'ave bust myself a-keepin' under my larfture, as will 'ave a went, and made Brown that savage with me; and all as I've got to say is as I'd go all over the world with Mr. Cook myself, and Brown says the same,

as I'm sure they're ain't nothin' left undone by for to satisfy parties, and I felt like a friend to, and 'is good lady, as I 'opes we may meet agin and 'ave many a pleasant chat, as is always a pleasure, partikler when you agrees, as it isn't always as you can, for some parties is that contrairy as not a hangel couldn't get on with, and sich didn't ought to come out on escursions, as all depends on parties bein' that friendly.

We was all a-goin' to San Cloo, as they calls it, as is their foolish ways of talkin', for it's spelt Saint Cloud as is downright plain English; if they'd only speak plain and not mess all their words up that fast, there's no doubt as a-many would understand 'em quite well, for the words isn't so out of the way if they was spoke proper, tho' I must say as it's werry absurd on 'em to call that 'ere church the Muddy Lane, for tho' arter a 'eavy shower the streets is filthy, yet certingly no one could say as it's a lane; but then it ain't more ridiculous than our callin' the big theayter in London Dreary Lane, tho' the time as I see it dreary were the word, but then it's all along of the French bein' one time so much about the place, as I've 'eard say as some of our kings was more French than English. But as to they're a-callin' the long street with the arches the river Lee, it's downright foolishness, unless perhaps there was a river run thro' it once, as I've 'eard say

did used to be in London just close by where Fleet Street stands now, and must 'ave been a big river too, for to let the fleet come up it. But what I were a-goin' to say about San Cloo was the way as one of them parties went on a-goin' in the chary-bang, as 'olds a good many, and we was all a-startin' and there was three werry nice young ladies as wanted to go partikler, but when it come up to the door where they was a-waitin' for to be took up there wasn't no room. I was a-settin' atween two werry stout gentlemen, and was a-chattin' pleasant, when that party as 'ad the words with me about the table at breakfast, as was a-settin' behind back to back with me, all black satin and crinoline, with ringlets that greasy as they looked quite drippin'. When I see them young people that disappinted at not goin', I says, "What a pity as we can't make room for 'em," and I hears that party behind my back a-sayin',

"It's a pity as some on us ain't a little smaller."

So I says, "If some on us didn't spread their-selves out as far as they can there'd be more room."

So she says, "Some on us is pretty well spread out by nature."

So I says, "If some on us wasn't to wear crinolines, as is out of fashion, there'd be a place for a little one or two." We was just off and I

'eard that creetur call me a old 'og in armour, so I says, "I don't know about bein' a 'og, as isn't company as I'm used to, but should say as you was quite at 'ome among."

She says, "You wulgar old woman, don't talk to your betters."

I says, "I won't when I meets with them as won't be the like of you as is what I calls cat's meat."

She says, "I won't go along with that old woman."

I says, "That you won't, for I'm a-goin' to get out, and wouldn't be seen with you," for I didn't feel over well, and there was to be a party for San Cloo in a day or two as I'd rather go with, so out I gets, and some'ow or other my parsol 'ad ketched in that female's bonnet, and in me a-gettin' up quick I tore it all back off 'er 'ead, and if them ringlets wasn't false. She give a squall and shoved at me that wiolent as pitched me nearly out of the chary-bang, so I turned round and give 'er a good topper and then bundles out, she come out arter me like a wild cat, and showed 'er legs a-gettin' down as was mill-posts for thickness, and cotton-top silk stockin's.

I do believe if several of the gentlemen 'adn't stood atween us, we should 'ave come to blows reg'lar, not as I should 'ave let myself down for

to fight, but really, she did aggrawate me; so she 'ad to go in to set 'er bonnet to rights, and I felt my spavins a-comin' on that dreadful, that I 'urried into the 'ouse, and 'ad a good cry with a little somethink 'ot, and then felt better, tho' far from well all day, and was glad as them young ladies went, as come 'ome in the hevenin', and made theirselves that pleasant a-singin' and playin', and thro' the weather bein' that warm, we set out in the garding a-listenin'; and as to that party in the black satin, she over-'eated herself or somethink, for she was obligated to go to bed as soon as ever she got 'ome, as 'ad been ill all the way in the chary-bang; but I wouldn't 'ave no disagreeables, so the next time as I see 'er, I goes up to 'er and says, "I asks your pardon, mum, for anythink as I said rude yesterday; and as to your bonnet, I do assure you it was a accident, as I wouldn't 'ave done it for the world, a-knowin' what it is thro' 'avin' took to a front myself." "Oh," she says, "never mind, tho' I did feel 'urt at the time, Mr. Johnson bein' present, and only lost my 'air three months ago thro' a bilious fever," as was all rubbish, for she was five-and-forty if a 'our; and as to Mr. Johnson, as was a great big hulkin' lookin' chap not thirty, as 'ad a nasty 'abit of larfin' without a emptin' of 'is mouth fust; I'm sure he'd never think of 'er, tho' she's a-settin' of 'er cap dead at 'im, as the sayin' is, but arter that, we got on better,

me and that party for that bit of a breeze between us seemed like a thunderstorm for to clear the hair. I was a-goin' to bed afore Brown that werry night, and thought while I was a-undressin', as I 'eard a sobbin' like, so I listens, and sure enough it was some one a-sobbin' in Mrs. Wilby's room, so I puts my shawl round my shoulders, and goes to the door and knocks and says, "Mrs. Wilby, mum, are you not well."

"Oh," she says, "Mrs. Brown, is that you? I'm so thankful you've come."

I see 'er lookin' like a ghost for whiteness, so I says, "Whatever is the matter?"

"Oh," she says, "I'm a 'art-broken wretched woman."

I says, "What is it?"

So she says, "It's all my own fault."

I says, "Can I help you?"

"No," she says, "you can't, nor no one else. I'm rightly punished."

I says, "What for?"

"Oh," she says, "I married that old man for 'is money, thro' bein' in dreadful distress, and now he leads me such a life, and ill-uses me thro' jealousy."

I says, "The toothless old brute."

She says, "He's 'orridly mean, and I do assure you he'll 'ardly let me 'ave a meal, except what I

get here, and because I met a old friend to-day in the Exhibishun as I stopped to speak to, he dragged me 'ome 'ere, and has gone to 'ave 'is tea;" and she says, "my brother is in Paris, and is coming to see me this evenin', but I dursn't let 'im know."

I says, "Not let you see your own brother; I never 'eard tell of sich a old Bluebeard."

While we was a-talkin,' there come a tap at the door, as was her brother as looked like a seafarin' character, as proved to be, and only jest come 'ome.

I went out of the room in course, and thinks as I'd go over and stop that old Wilby from comin'. So I slips on my gownd, and tho' far from well, goes over to where they was a-takin' tea, and there was that old wagabone still at 'is tea, a-tuckin' into cold 'am like one o'clock. So I jest took a cup and set down near 'im, and begun a-talkin' to 'im, a lyin' old beast, as begun a humbuggin' about 'is dear wife bein' that delicate as she was forced to go to bed. I didn't say nothink, but when he'd took 'is tea, and said as he was a-goin', I says, "Law, won't you 'ave a 'and at cribbage with me, Mr. Wilby?" For we'd played one evenin' afore, and he'd won sixpence on me, as I see he were reg'lar greedy arter.

At first he sed he wouldn't, but then give way,

and we set down to play, and he kep' on a-chucklin' over me a-losin'.

Afore ever I come in, I asked the lady of the 'ouse if she'd send some tea over to that poor young woman, as promised she'd do it as soon as possible.

I kep' lettin' that old feller win till he'd got a shillin' out of me, and then he wanted to leave off. But I says, "No, give me a chance of winnin' some of it back," as he was obligated to give in to, thro' others a-sayin' it were fair.

Brown, he come into the room, as 'ad been doin' a pipe, and says, "Hallo, Martha, I thought you'd gone to bed."

I says, "I changed my mind."

Jest then the waiter come in and says to me, "The lady ain't there, for I've took over the tea myself, and the room's empty."

Says old Wilby, "What lady?"

I says, "Oh, nobody you knows; a friend of mine."

So the waiter says, "Then you didn't mean the tea for this gentleman's wife?"

Up jumps old Wilby and rushes out of the room; I follers 'im, and got up to the room as quick as he did, and sure enough it was dark and empty.

He turns on me and says, "This is your 'andy work, you old cockatrice."

I says, "You call me sich names, and I'll tear your eyes out."

He says, "Where's my wife?" and rushes into my room.

I says, "Come out of there, and don't make a fool of yourself." I'd got a light, and on the table there was a letter for 'im, as he ketched up and read, and then says, "It's all a plot, and you're in it."

I says, "I knows nothink about it;" but I says, "I do know one thing, and that is, as you treated 'er shameful; and if she's gone to her brother, it only serves you right."

He says, "'Er brother, indeed!"

I says, "You don't mean to say as that seafarin' party as I left 'er here along with isn't 'er brother?"

He says, "You must be a fool to believe sich a tale," and was a-rushin' out.

"Now," I says, "you'll escuse me, but," I says, "don't you go and make yourself a larfin' stock to every one in the 'ouse, but keep quiet; if she's a bad woman, let 'er go, and you're well rid of 'er, and be sure it'll come 'ome to 'er."

He begun a-cussin' of 'er, so I says, "Don't do that, for, remember as cusses is like chickens, they comes 'ome to roost;" so I says, "let 'er go, and you take yourself off on the quiet."

"Well," he says, "you're no fool, tho' nobody wouldn't believe it was in you to look at you."

I says, "Don't the letter say where's she's gone?"

"Oh," he says, "I don't care, leave me alone, that's all," and so I did, and when Brown come over I told 'im, and he says, "I do believe as you'll be a-goin' into the Toolerees and a-interferin' with the Hempire 'isself next."

"Ah," says I, "I could tell 'im a bit of my mind as would do 'im good, and I'm sure I could manage that poor little Prince Imperial better, as I see lookin' werry pasty a-walkin' in the gardings, as wants feedin' up and not to be allowed for to set about a-drinkin' wine with a lot of little boys as is dressed up like sojers, and his father a-lookin' on as I see the picter on myself.

We 'eard old Wilby a-fidgetin' about a good deal, and I kep' a-dreamin' and a-thinkin' about that poor young woman, and didn't get no sleep, but jest as I was dropped off if they didn't come and thump at the door and say as it was time for me to get up as it 'ad gone five.

I says, "Get up at this 'our; what for?"

The man says, "You're a-goin' by the fust train."

I says, "I ain't."

"Oh," he says, "then it's the next room," as sure enough it was old Wilby a-goin' off, and go he did, and good riddance; and, I says to Brown,

"he must 'ave done werry bad by 'er for to make 'er run away like that."

"Oh," he says, "she's only a-actin' ally mode de Parry, and has caught up their ways."

I says, "Rubbish, there's good and bad, no doubt, 'ere like everywhere's else;" but I couldn't go to sleep no more, and lay there a-thinkin' over all manner, and what I 'eard about their French ways of puttin' all the children out to nuss, as dies by the thousand, and is a bad way for to go on jest to save theirselves the trouble; but, law, it don't do for to think over the way as children is treated in England, as is bad enough, goodness knows.

Brown, he got up in a reg'lar bad temper, that short, as there weren't no speakin' to 'im, and was that rude to me over breakfast thro' a-sidin' agin me when I said as I'd see Bonyparty a-layin' in state in Baker Street, 'cos parties said they was a-goin' to see 'is tomb, as I've seen myself, but wanted for to go into Paris to do a little bit of shoppin' with Mrs. Ditcher, as I knows is as good as French to go shoppin' with, and wouldn't 'ave thought of goin' alone, for no sooner do they find out as you're English, than they sticks it on pretty thick, I can tell you, everywhere about Paris, downright barefaced robbery; but I must say as I do think as I never did know sich a reg'lar swindle as one of them dinners as we took in the Pally Royal,

as was two francs seventy-five, as they tells us means three francs; and they'd been and put on a lot for to ketch the English, as they know'd would be that ravenous as they'd be drove to eat anythink and pay thro' their noses into the bargin.

Well, we was a pretty large party, and Miss Tredwell were there, as 'ad got sick of 'er aunt at Wersales and come back, and she kep' on a-talkin' what she calls French, as is in my opinion, nothink but gibberish; well, one says as they'd like one thing, and one another; as for me, the only thing as I took extra were a bit of butter and a reddish or two, and couldn't drink their wine, and 'ad a bottle of pale ale, and bless you, the money as that dinner come to was turtle and wenison, as the sayin' is.

So I says it's downright robbery, and quite as bad as at the Caffee Shanton, as they charged us a franc and a-'arf at, for a cup of the most awful coffee as ever I did taste, wuss than the Tunics.

We couldn't make the waiter understand, and I don't know what we should have done, if it 'adn't been as a werry pleasant gentleman as were English, and a beard, a-takin' of his dinner, come and 'elped us, and esplained as we'd been an 'ad a lot of things supplementaire, as they calls 'em, as means extras; but he made 'em take a-somethink off, but it was over four francs a-piece, as is a 'eavy price for the

Pally Royal, and only what they charges anywhere for a dinner of Paris, as we 'ad one day for a treat, as is certingly good as French dinners goes, as I don't think much on myself, and prefers a jint and a puddin' any day.

I didn't go but to one theayter, as was to see Cindrella, as wasn't a bit like the English story, tho' you could see as that it were cribbed from it, and of all the sights as ever I did see, it was them gals dresses as danced, as wasn't no dresses at all.

We was up werry 'igh, and the 'eat were that dreadful, though a noble theayter, and that full as you wouldn't believe as so many people could come to see sich foolishness, as I didn't understand, and only come 'cos Mr. Ditcher said as we did ought to see fine spectacles, as is what the French calls plays, as is their ignorance, and Miss Tredwell did make me that wild, for she kep' on a-larfin' as if she could understand the jokes, and when you asked her what they'd said, she only told you foolishness as nobody couldn't larf at, as wasn't a maniac outright, and I see as she didn't know no more than me what they was a-sayin', as is a mask of deceit all over. The next day we went to San Cloo, and I should 'ave looked werry nice only I'd sent my white jacket to the wash, and the colour as they sent it 'ome was outrageous, as they'd been and washed it in dirty water and

then blue bagged it to death—leastways that's what it looked like; and as to Brown's shirts and collars they come that limp as there wasn't no wear in 'em, and no wonder, for they washes in cold water down by the river side, as I see them myself a-beatin' of the things to death, as is shameful;—and sich a price as is enough to make any one stare.

But certingly we 'ad a werry pleasant day at San Cloo, as is a pretty place, and if I was a queen would jest suit me, as the waterworks plays beautiful and not too far to go, and well it wasn't, for tho' a lovely mornin', come over a storm in the evenin' as made Mrs. Wells faint dead off, jest as we got in the train, for we couldn't go 'ome in the chary-bang; and Miss Tredwell kept a-'ollerin' to be put in a cellar so as she couldn't see it, as is downright foolishness, as might find 'er out jest the same there as in the hopen day, and I says to her, "There ain't no cellars to be 'ad in a railway train," where we was then, as didn't pacify her, but turned out a fine night jest arter we got 'ome. I never shall forget the fright as I got one mornin' as I was out early a-takin' a walk near the Bore de Boulone. I'm always pretty sharp a-lookin' out for the 'orses as come a-gallopin' along the footpath, downright disgraceful. Well, I was a-walkin' on and 'eard a flappin' noise behind me, and a party as were a-

scrapin' the road close by 'ollers out to me. I looks round, and there was them two beastly blacks a-trottin' after me on their camels, as 'ad broke loose from the Exposishun. The path where I was walkin' 'ad a post each side, with a wooden bar at the top, as I couldn't get under, and as to lettin' them beasts pass they was all over the place like, so there wasn't nothink for it but to run, and off I set and 'eard a-shoutin' as was no doubt some one a-'ollerin' to me as the camels was comin', and on I rushed and made for the first opening as I see in them palin's as was ever so far off, but I bounds through it and come full butt agin a old feller as were a-smokin' a pipe and sent 'im a-flyin' agin some iron railin's, as it's a mercy he stopped me a-comin' agin or I should 'ave been reg'lar doubled up—he certingly did go on tremenjous, a-making signs as I'd 'urt his feet. But as I says, what is any one to do when wild beasts is a-pursuin' 'em, and as is a shame to be let out like that with them savages on their backs as don't seem to 'ave no power over them, as 'ow should they 'ave as is as strong as helephants, tho' no trunk to carry.

I must say as I do like for to see them places in Paris where they looks arter the children, down to quite infants, while their mothers is gone to work, as they calls a Craysh, and a werry good

thing too, tho' I must say as I wish as every mother with a young child was able for to give 'er time to look arter it; but them good sisters is that kind as they'd do anythink for any one, and I'm sure the way as they looks arter the cripples, and tries to teach all the children as did ought to turn out well, and p'raps they will be better than them as 'ave gone before, as 'adn't them instructions.

Talk about French dinners! law, they're nothink; for if you wants to pay, go to some of them English places, leastways one as me and Brown and Miss Tredwell went to the last day as we was in Paris; for we was a-goin' 'ome by the night train, thro' its a-suitin' Brown best, as 'ad to be 'ome by a certain day.

So I says, "The train leaves at six o'clock, and we'll get a bit of dinner about four o'clock;" and I says, "the sea is a bilious thing, and don't let's 'ave none of their French grease for to upset us."

So Brown says, "What will you 'ave?"

So I says, "I've 'eard speak of a place close on the Bully-wards, where you can get a bit of cold beef and a drop of beer, English-like."

Well, Brown says, "All right." So when we'd been about and bought some trifles as I wanted for to take 'ome, I was that tired as I says it must be near dinner time, and off we goes to this 'ere place,

as is certingly werry nice to look at. Well, all as we 'ad was a bit of cold meat and a steak, with some sparrer-grass, and a few strawberries about the size of peas, as is wonderful cheap. Miss Tredwell she fancied a drop of wine more than beer, but we only 'ad hordinare as was good, and took 'arf a bottle a-piece, with some bread and butter; and I'm blest if the bill didn't come up to pretty near a pound.

I says, "Whatever for?" But they couldn't speak no English; leastways a waiter pretended to as was a insolent beast, and quite rude to me because I asked 'im to 'urry with the steak, as they kep' us waitin' ever so long for, and if he didn't say in 'is gibberish as it wasn't time for dinners, and would 'ave been insultin', only 'is English didn't run to it, as the sayin' is, and he was stuck up a-tryin' to get 'is sauce out.

There wasn't nothink for it but to pay. So we did, and Brown blowed me up, a-sayin' we could 'ave 'ad a fust-rate dinner for 'arf the money, and so we could.

I was glad for to get to the railway, where we'd left our things in the mornin', and we was soon in the train, and a lovely evenin' it were, all but the dust, as was a-makin' quite millers on us. We didn't stop werry long at Ruin, but time to take a somethink as knows 'ow to charge, and

wanted 'arf a franc for a orange, and a whole franc for about a dozen strawberries. When we got to Dieppe we got aboard of the steamer as wasn't to start not till four in the mornin'. So I goes down into the cabin, and the stewardess was a werry pleasant young woman, and made me up a sort of a bed on a sofy as I should 'ave slep' on werry well, only just as I were a-goin' to lay down up comes a stout party as said she'd engaged that sofy. So I says, "Werry well, then I'll sleep up there," as was a sort of a shelf just over that sofy, as 'ad a little round winder open close to my 'ead.

Well, I managed for to get up there, and shets the winder; so the party on the sofy says, "Oh, I can't 'ave that winder shet."

So I says, "Can't you? Then I can, as ain't a-goin' to 'ave my death of cold ketched thro' the night air a-blowin' in."

"Oh," she says, "sea air will do you good."

I says, "If you're so fond on it, p'raps you'll come up and lay 'ere with your 'ead close agin it, as will give you ear-ache as sure as a gun."

She said as she should faint.

"Well," I says, "faint away; they're used to it 'ere."

So I shets the winder, and tries to go to sleep, and 'ad dozed off, when I suppose I was a-dreamin', for I thought as that party below was a-tryin' to

open that little winder, and I says, "No, you don't; get away," and gives 'er a shove, as I thought, as made me roll right off the shelf, and come on the top of 'er with a squash as made every one wake up.

There was a row, but I'm sure I was most 'urt, for I rolled off of 'er on to the floor. I thought I was a-settin' on somethink werry soft and 'ard both together, and felt some one a-'ittin' at me, but didn't know quite what I was about, thro' bein' that confused in my 'ead, atween asleep and awake, with a bell a-ringin', and the stewardess a-'ollerin' at me and tryin' to pull me up, and if I wasn't a-settin' on a lady's face, as were a-sleepin' on the ground; for the cabin was that crowded, because all as comes by night is allowed in the best cabin without payin' extra, as Brown and me 'ad done a-comin', and really, when I did get on my feet, I felt reg'lar like busted, and jest then the boat was off, and joggled about so as I couldn't stand, and I didn't know where to lay, for the place was that full, and the wessel a-rollin' and pitchin', for it 'ad come on to blow and rain that wiolent as I couldn't go on deck, where Brown was; but at last I couldn't stand it no longer, for that stout party as I'd fell on kep' a-moanin', and the lady as I'd set on 'er face 'er nose were a-bleedin', and altogether I never did feel more wretched.

So up I goes, and a young feller were that kind

to me, and acted quite the father to me, and wrapped me up in a thing like a coal-sack, and there I set on the deck a-rollin' about that dreadful, with a 'ankercher tied round my 'ead, that ill as I do think as death would 'ave been a mercy; and I can't make out 'owever it is as them wessels is allowed for to roll and pitch about like that, as can't be fastened proper, as I says to that young man as 'ad give me the coal-sack to wear, "Whatever can be the use of all them cords and ropes if they don't 'old it steadier than this;" as only says, "Law bless you, marm, this ain't nothink but 'er play, as is a light-'arted wessel."

When I see Brown, I says, "Brown, it's all over with me! But," I says, "if anythink should 'appen to me, whatever you do, don't go for to pitch me overboard, for," I says, "I've got a secret on my bussum as I wouldn't die without tellin' you on, was it ever so."

"Oh," he says, "I don't want to know none of your secrets as ain't worth knowin', I dessay."

I says, "Brown, it is worth knowin', for," I says, "it's a five-pound note as I've got sowed up in my stays," so he only bust out a-larfin' and says—

"Oh, I shan't mind a-losin' that if I gets rid of you."

He ain't a bad 'art ain't Brown, but not much feelin' as ever he shows for nothink, and if he didn't

go away and leave me, as is a nice way for to keep 'is wows as he made, never to desert me in sickness and in 'ealth, as I'm sure I was in both just then. As to Miss Tredwell, I'd left 'er awful bad, but about eight o'clock or so she came on deck, I felt a little better and so did she; I says to 'er as I wanted for to get down in the cabin for to dress myself as I couldn't manage, so I asks the stewardess whether I might take a new 'at as I'd brought from Paris ashore without payin' no duty.

She says, "If you wears it they can't charge you."

I says, "I can't wear it now."

"Why," she says, "the weather's lovely, and we shall be in 'arf a 'our from this time."

So she brings me up my bonnet-box, and I puts on the 'at. Jest a-puttin' of my 'air on and a-settin' myself a little bit to rights on the cabin stairs.

It was a werry lovely 'at as Mrs. Wells 'ad bought, but didn't suit 'er complexion thro' bein' a yaller, with trimmins and a feather to match, and I'd got a green wail for to wear with it. Jest as I'd got it on, up comes Brown as nearly bust 'isself a-larfin', and says, "Well, of all the old guys as ever I did see, you beat 'em."

I says, "Brown, if you don't like it I won't wear it."

He says, "I don't care what you wears, if you

likes to make a figger of yourself, do it in welcome, but," he says, "you'd better come up on that upper deck, as the air is fresher." So he ketches 'old on me and leads me up some steps onto a sort of a landin' between the paddle-boxes, and there he set me on a camp-stool, as they calls it, as was werry wobbly. I didn't much like it, and was a-goin' to get up, when that camp-stool toppled over; I grabbed at somethink for to save myself, and ketched 'old of a brass tap like, when it give a puff of steam tremenjous as blinded me, and a screamin' whistle as made me give that start as over I rolled, and should have been down a flight of steps, only the captain were a-comin' up.

He says, "What did you do that for?" so I tells 'im; "Well," he says, "you've only saved me the trouble as were just a-comin' up to do it;" but, bless you, my green wail was soakin', and my 'at quite spilte, and the mercy is as I were not scalded to death.

So I goes down, and who should I see a-settin' on the deck but that Mrs. Wilby, as certingly I did not hold with; so she comes up to me as I spoke to cool, so she says—

"Oh, Mrs. Brown, I'm so glad to see you."

I says, "Escuse me, mum, but tho' I pities you I do not 'old with any wife a-boltin' from a 'usband, as whatever he may be is a 'usband still."

So she says, "Oh it's all right with Mr. Wilby, as I'm here with my brother and 'is wife." And if they 'adn't come to Paris a-purposely for to fetch her away from that old brute, and if she didn't go on and tell me 'ow she'd been treated by 'im as 'ad broke 'er back-comb in 'er 'ead, and pulled 'er 'air out by the 'andfuls, all thro' bein' that jealous, as she said, served 'er right for marryin' 'im, as no doubt she 'ad done jest to get provided for, as is downright infamous, I considers; and, for my part, I don't see as 'ow a woman as does such a thing can look down on the wilest, for she's rather worse off, 'cos the werry worst on us can turn over a new leaf, but when you're once married they're ain't no repentance but the grave or the divorce court, as wouldn't suit me, that's all as I've got to say. And yet 'ave 'ad a deal to put up with sometimes, with Brown's temper and redicule, but thro' a-bearin' on it 'ave brought 'im to be a lamb, tho' with a 'ot temper. I should 'ave 'eard a deal more about Mrs. Wilby, only the boat stopped still, and then began to wobble that awful as seemed to turn my werry 'art inside out.

I says to Brown, "It's 'ard for to perish in sight of land like this."

He says, "Don't talk foolery."

I says, "I ain't a-talkin' foolery, Mr. Brown, for well I remembers your a-readin' of it to me yourself

about a wessel as was dashed to bits on the rocks as the parties standin' on could 'ear the poor creeturs' shrieks as were a-standin' on that wessel a-flounderin' every instant."

"Why," he says, "that was off the Cape of Good Hope in a 'eavy see."

"Well," I says, "it may have been a good ope," but I don't see it, for a watery grave is a thing as I've 'ad 'ad a-orror on ever since a gal thro' bein' nearly drownded all thro' a cousin of mine as 'eld my 'ead down in the washin'-basin, thro' fun, and no doubt must have perished, but for havin' on thick boots as I lashed out behind with, and ketched 'im sich a shinner as sent 'im off a-'owlin' as 'adn't no business in the wash-'ouse, and me a-cleanin' myself up a-bit, as was always full of 'is larks, and took to the sea, poor feller, and lost 'is life thro' 'is cap a-blowin' off up aloft, as he'd been sent to for to fetch somethink as is 'ighly dangerous in a rollin' sea. "But," I says, "Brown, whyever don't we go on?"

"Oh," he says, "there ain't water enough for to let us go in."

I says, "That's rubbish with the werry oshun under our feet."

He says, "'Old your row," and so I did, not for 'is tellin' me, but because I was that dreadful queer as talk I couldn't, and for more than 'arf a 'our, I'm sure, we was a-dodgin' about, and thankful I was

when we come to a anchor and to get ashore, and a werry nice 'otel where I made myself comfortable, and the train went about eleven o'clock as would 'ave got us 'ome by the middle of the day; but I was that bad as go I couldn't, so stopped on to the arternoon, for I says, "I 'ates gettin' 'ome in the middle of the day, as don't seem nat'ral, and the next train 'll get us there by six," and I'd got Miss Tredwell for to write to Mrs. Challin for to 'ave tea ready with a bit of cold 'am and a hegg or two in the 'ouse, so I says, "It's sure to be all right."

Brown, he says, "Go when you please," and goes out for to 'ave a talk with parties aboard the steamer, as he's fond of seein' all about, and whatever he can see in 'em I can't think, for the werry smell of that ingin room turns me. We was off about three, and got 'ome jest on the stroke of six, as the sayin' is; and when we got to the door I was rather took aback at seein' all the winders open, and if Mrs. Challin didn't come to the door that sweep to look at, as I says she's 'ad the chimbly a-fire, and it was next thing to it, for she'd been and 'ad the sweeps, as I'd told 'er to afore I left 'ome; but I says, "Why 'ave them the werry day as I'm espected?"

She says, "You wasn't espected."

I says, "Not thro' that note as I sent you?"

She says, "We've never 'ad no note, 'ave we,

Nancy, or I'm sure I shouldn't 'ave 'ad the sweeps with a 'eavy wash on."

And if she 'adn't been and washed my white bed furniture and the counterpin, and two blankets, and the whole place upside-down, all the carpets up, and my bed-room fresh scoured, with all the things piled on the top of the bed.

As to Brown, 'owlin' wolves was lambs to the way he went on, and arter sayin' as he hoped as I liked it, walks 'isself out.

I was that awful tired that I couldn't stir a 'and or foot till I'd 'ad a cup of tea, but then turned to, and by the time as my lord come in the place was all to rights, with a bit of 'ot supper ready, as put 'im in a good humour, and he says, "Well, arter all said and done, 'ome is 'ome." And I says to 'im, "Right you are."

I don't think as I ever did enjoy my own bed more in my life, for them French beds is that springy as you don't seem never to get your rest thro' bein' always on the move in them; but I will say as it's a wonderful place, and as I says to Mrs. Elkins, a old friend of mine as is a-goin' to Paris with 'er two daughters, as 'ave jest left a boardin'-school, and 'er a-dyin' to get 'em married, as I don't think as the Parishuns is likely for to fancy, thro' bein' far from 'andsome nor yet good figgers, and she come for to ask me about Cook's escursion, and I

says, "Well, all as I can say is as I looks on Mr. Cook like a father, and as to Mrs. Cook, she were a downright mother to me, and everybody that civil, and I'm sure 'ad their tempers tried," for there was parties as never would be satisfied, leastways Miss Tredwell was one, as I give 'er a good settlin' down myself, and there was a stuck-up chap in a white wescut as was always a-blowin' about 'is clubs. So I says one evenin' as he was a-talkin' werry big, I says, "Ah, them benefit clubs is werry good things in sickness, and somethink 'andsome to bury you with," as made parties larf, and he give me sich a scowl and walks out of the room, as were a-comin' the toff a little too strong over us.

The only unpleasantness as I know'd was among the ladies about a-givin' of their hages for to be wrote in the perlice book, as is like them perliceses impidences, for to ask sich a question.

As I says, "What's my hage to them, as am as old as my tongue, and a little older than my teeth," as the sayin' is; tho' I must say I couldn't 'elp a-smilin' when I see Miss Tredwell a-puttin' 'erself down five-and-twenty, as is eight-and-thirty, if not turned forty; and as to Mrs. Wells bein' only eight-and-twenty, why then I'm eighteen, that's all.

When I comes to look back calm at that Exhibi-shun, I must say as it's wonderful, and will be a deal better when it's finished, and all the things got there

and unpacked; but if there wasn't no Exhibishun there at all, it's worth any one's while for to see Paris, tho' no doubt they'd be glad for to find theirselves safe 'ome agin, for tho' London is a grubby 'ole, and there's room for improvements, leastways there did ought to be, tho' I've 'eard say as the ground is worth a guinea a inch in the City, yet it's 'ome, and a pleasure for to 'ave friends near you as you can understand, and not that everlastin' jabber a-goin' on in that gibberish as must be 'arf foolishness as they're a-talkin', and tho' I admires them French a good deal as is a clever 'ard-workin' lot, but I couldn't stop among 'em was it ever so.

Not as I've got any reasons for to speak agin 'em, and I'm sure treated me well, for even the Hempress 'erself, as we see one day in the Exhibishun, was a-lookin' at me with 'er hoprer-glass, and the Princess of Proosher as was along with 'er quite smiled as she passed, no doubt a-twiggin' at a glance as I were English, as you can tell among a thousand as give a good hoorare myself when I see 'er a-comin', and waved my 'artkercher that wiolent as I knocked a old gentleman's 'at and spectacles clean off, as he didn't take in good part, as is only what you might espect thro' bein' a German, as is parties I don't 'old with, tho' I've know'd some on 'em that pleasant as you wouldn't believe as they was Germans.

As to the Hemperor, I never shall forget 'im to my dyin' day as were a-drivin' in 'is pheaton and me a-crossin' the street, and 'ad to pull up for me as was werry perlite, and give a downright larf and so did the party as were with 'im, as was only their French ways, as is a light-'arted lot, and never thinks of to-morrer, as I'm sure I'm obliged to, for if that gal of mine don't nearly drive me mad as 'll go and take in a quartern loaf with all that stale bread in the 'ouse aready.

I ain't seen nothink of Miss Tredwell since as owes me money, which is p'raps the reason.

Poor Mrs. Wells, she come over to see me, as says Wells is a bigger brute than ever, a-ravin' about the French women's beauty, as I'm sure I see none on 'em as is a bold lot, a-goin' to the races as I see 'em myself as is called the jemmy mond, and a nice jemmy dressed out flashy bold-lookin' lot they was, that painted up and their 'air all yaller, but as I says no ladies, never in this world, to go on like that; and as to the men the more they dresses the wuss they looks, with 'ats on like black chimbly pots and their trousers that tight as I'm sure they're never made to take on and off, and as to them 'igh 'eel boots as the ladies wears with their short things, I'd sooner walk in pattens, as would be a firmer tread and not so likely for to give the ankle a wrench as you're a good time a-gettin' over, like a aunt of mine

as trod on a bit of soap left in carelessness on the kitchen stairs and come all down 'em with a run and a kick in 'er gallop, as the sayin' is, for ever arter.

Tho' I've 'ad my troubles among them French, as I kep' dark from Brown, as would 'ave took and nearly blowed their 'eads off, if he'd knowed it, and certingly a downright insult for to ever think sich a thing on me, and give me a dreadful turn, tho' soon over, for I was a-settin' restin' near one of them forin caffees, and I see one or two of them cock 'at chaps pass by and stare, and then they went away and others come; and at last one on 'em comes up and gives me a sort of a wink, and jerks with 'is thumb, as he meant me for to foller 'im.

I says, "Go on with your awdacious impidence," and give 'im one of my looks, but he wouldn't go on, but kep' a-pintin', and beckonin', and then two or three others come up, as begun a-talkin'.

So I says, "If you've got anythink for to say to me, speak out like men, and don't be a-noddin' and winkin' at me, as ain't one for to stand none of your nonsense."

So as they couldn't make nothink on me, they fetches a party as was a interpreter, and he says, werry perlite, as the perlice required my attendance for a little minit.

I says, "You don't mean to say as you're

a-goin' to take me up, as am a British subjec', and 'ave got our minister 'ere, and tho' I ain't of 'is perswasion, I don't believe, as a clergyman, he'd stand by and let me be insulted."

So he says, "Come, it's all right," so I follers, and was took into one of them places as did ought to be a caffee, but ain't, as is where the perlice stops.

A chap were a-settin' at the table, and asks for my pusport.

I says, "I ain't got sich a thing as a pusport about me, and only a port-mony, without much in it, for I never do go out with money in my pocket, not since that time as I 'ad my pocket picked in Whitechapel."

So the interpreter he stops me, and says, "Are you a married woman?"

I says, "In course, not as I've got my lines with me, but could tell any one where to lay their 'ands on 'em in the dark, as is the furthest corner of my left 'and top drawer."

He says, "What's your name, do you say?"

I says, "Brown—Martha Brown," as I wouldn't deny, was it ever so.

Well, they talked together a bit, and then the interpreter says as I must be searched.

"What," I says, "by foreign Frenchmen—never!"

"No," he says, "there's a lady as 'll do it. Step in 'ere."

Well, I don't think as ever I was in sich a fright, and as to that party as was to search me, I never see anythink more like a man in petticoats, with a mustarch on 'er upper lip, for all the world like a 'orse-marine, as the sayin' is.

I didn't 'arf fancy being searched, but it was only my pocket as they turned out, as is a good stout jane, and 'olds a-many things, and I do believe as they was a-larfin' when they took out that little straw bottle as I always carries, but seemed satisfied, and says as I might go, but I says to the interpreter, "Whatever does it mean?"

"Oh," he says, "only a mistake, as you must look over, thro' there bein' a many bad characters about as is a-plottin' for 'sassinatin', and it was thought as you was one in disguise, thro' their thinkin' as your little bottle was a pistol."

"Why," I says, "the awdacious wagabones, they must 'ave been a-tamperin' with my pocket for to know as I'd got it at all, and as to bein' a 'sassin in disguise, I'm sure I don't look like a man dressed up in woman's clothes, as I do believe that one is as turned my pocket out;" and I says, "You'll 'ear more on it," for I ain't one to be trampled on and not turn, like a worm, as the sayin' is.

So he says, "I 'ope you'll look over it, as am English myself, and wouldn't 'ave stood by and seen no insults offered you; but," he says, "I do assure you as they're obliged to be careful, for them 'sassins is that hartful as they'd take any one in."

So I didn't say nothink to nobody, for really there's no tellin' what them perlice won't do, as seemed always for to 'ave their eyes on me, and quite accounts for what 'appened one day as I was a-walkin' about the Exhibishun all alone and was a-lookin' at some werry wonderful old ancient things as I see 'ad come from England. They was things as did used to belong to them Romans when they was over 'ere, so I know'd as Brown would like to see 'em, and as it was jest on the time for meetin' 'im, as we'd made a rondywoo, as the French calls it, close by, I goes out of the place for to meet 'im, and 'adn't got werry far when I remembered as I'd left my camp-stool, as I always took with me, behind.

I turns back, and if they 'adn't been and shet the place up, tho' not near the time.

So I knocks at the door, as is a sort of slidin' petition, and up comes a surjon-de-will, and tells me to move on, or, as he called it, circulate.

I says, "I wants my camp-stool."

He only talked more louder, 'cos I knocked agin with my umbreller.

I says, "I'll 'ave it," for I'd been a-settin' there quiet a-takin' a little refreshments as I'd brought in a basket, thro' not a-likin' to pay that price for everythink, and 'ad been took quite faint, as walkin' round and round always do make me, and felt as I might want that camp-stool agin, for you ain't never safe in that Exhibishun about them seats, as some on 'em is free gracious and others you've no sooner set down on than up comes a woman and wants two soos, as she takes and then gives a click at a little round brass box as she've got a-'angin' at 'er side like a watch, as is to check 'er from a-collarin' them soos, not as I sees as that can do it, for she ain't no call to click the thing if she don't like to; but any'ow, I don't see the fun of payin', so takes my camp-stool, and says to that surjon-de-will, "I'll have it."

But he only went on a sacree-ree-ree-in, and pushes me away, and jest then Brown he come up, and says, "Whatever are you at?"

"Why," I says, "a-tryin' to get my property out of this 'ere place."

He says, "What property?" and when I told 'im, if he didn't say as he was glad as I'd lost it, as I should be sure to come to grief with it some day, and wouldn't let me 'ave it out with that surjon-de-will; and little did I think as 'is words would prove true about that camp-stool, as I got back the next day

and 'eard say as the reason as they'd shet that place up was as some of them crowned 'eads was in there, but whyever they calls 'em crowned 'eads I can't think, as ain't got no more crowns to their 'eads than I 'ave, for I see that 'ere King of the Belgiums a-walkin' about with 'is good lady, and no more dressed than nobody else, as in my opinion they did ought to be, for I'm sure to see the photygrafts of royal families, as you see all about the place, they ain't no more like kings and queens than Mr. and Mrs. Wileman, as was photygraffed with all the children, and as plain a lot as you'd set eyes on in a day's walk, as is what I calls stuck up rubbish, bein' done like that.

But as to that camp-stool, it was as near my death as tho' it 'ad been a field of battle itself, as is what it's called arter, for I took it into the Exhibishun, and was a-settin' there oppersite to a lovely picter as I wanted for to 'ave a good look at, and in course thro' not 'avin' my eyes at the back of my 'ead, as I told 'em, couldn't see one of them fotiles roolong, as they calls them bath-chairs as parties is wheeled all over the place in as ain't got no use in their limbs. Well, the party as were in this one as run agin me 'ad got a double oprer-glass a-lookin' at the picters, and the party as were a-rollin' 'im he was a-lookin' too, and if that fotile didn't ketch the back leg of my camp-stool with its 'ind wheel

and send me right over, and in fallin' I give the party in the fotile sich a back-'ander with my umbreller as in course I 'adn't no control on, and give me a additional shove back agin and fell with my basket under me, and a mercy as the bottle of wine in it didn't cut me to death in breakin', as were none of your winegary wine but a nice bottle of bone as they calls it, thro' bein' a dry wine no doubt, as run all over the place, and parties thought I was a-bleedin' to death, and if they didn't take and carry me off a-'ollerin' for 'elp to what they calls the succours for the blessed, as is the medical departments, and then quite short with me for not bein' injured, as no doubt was a-longin' for to operate as is their ways, and I lost the camp-stool, as were p'raps as well, and it might 'ave led to wuss thro' never bein' quite up to my weight; and of all the stains as ever you see in my green musling as'll never come out without a-fetchin' out the colour as well.

I'm sure the 'air-breath escapes as I've 'ad is wonderful, and as nigh burnt to death thro' a-fallin' back'ards on to where they was a-layin' down that asfelt, for I was a-walkin' only a-thinkin' what a filthy smell it made as did ought in course to 'ave been all done afore the public was admitted and not to be a-doin' it with crowds about, and only a bit of string for to warn you off. Well, jest as I was close to it, if them beasts on the camels

didn't come by, and took it into their 'eads to turn tail, as made parties all press back, and bein' next that bit of string as they'd only drawed across the path, I was nat'ral pressed agin it as give way with my weight, and down I sets on the 'ot asfelt, not as it were bilin', as must 'ave been my instant death, but that 'ot as to make it unpleasant, not to say painful, and stuck to it like wax.

Screams is nothink to what I uttered, a-thinkin' as it would burn thro' and thro', and it's a mercy as I 'adn't got on my thin musling thro' the day bein' chilly and a-blowin' up for rain; but, bless you, that back breadth of my coburg is downright ruined, and I'm glad as I 'adn't my black welwet cape on as nothink wouldn't never 'ave taken that pitchey stuff out on.

We wasn't far off from the Exhibishun, in fact a pleasant walk without the sun was too 'ot, and then a downright biler.

So them young Walkers as 'ad come over only the night afore asked me if I'd go to the Exhibishun the next mornin' along with them and two or three more as were a-goin' to walk, and I'd said as I were agreeable, so off we started, and a werry nice walk we 'ad till you gets to the end where there certingly is a fine wiew of Paris, but they've been and laid the stones down as cripples you in crossin' the road to a flight of the werry widest

steps as ever I see as leads down to the Exhibishun, as is a reg'lar eyesore for to look at for hugliness, and a gasometer all over.

When we got to the top of them steps, if them young chaps didn't say as the best way to get down them steps would be to run down 'em, and I says as I thought so too. If they didn't say, "Come on," and one a one side and the other the other, ketched 'old of me under the harms and run me down, in spite of my 'ollerin'; and then, when we'd got to the bottom, and werry nigh run slap into a 'buss, as were a-passin', if they didn't stand me out as I'd asked 'em for to take me down; as certingly I did say in joke as I wished some one would carry me, but never thought to come down with a run like that, and the kicks as I got from them two chaps was hagony.

But 'ere I am, safe and sound, arter all, and this I will say, as any one as wants to see the Exhibishun 'ad better do as I did, all except a-takin' of a ice in the Pally Royal when over-'eated arter dinner, and thought as I should have died arter it; but I will say as they've always got brandy 'andy at 'and, as is a fine medicine, and thousands owes their lives to; so I never goes out without it, if ever so little, and wouldn't was it ever so. And as to your wishin' to know what I thinks on it, Mr.

Scratchley, them's my wiews, tho' Brown is that aggrawatin' as he'll contradict every word as I says, and yet don't remember nothink 'isself, as I says, whatever is the use of goin' about with your eyes in your breeches pockets like that, as I wouldn't, if I wore 'em, for it's my pride for to notice everythink and everybody, and there's a many things as I'd 'ave altered in that Exhibishun, yet in course there ain't nothink perfect in this world, and we must take what we gets and be thankful, as is my opinions, and never ashamed to own to 'em nowheres, tho' not thankful, I must own for that feller a-fillin' of my shoe with water, as certingly were baggy at the side thro' bein' a easy fit, and 'im a-waterin' the place all over to lay the dust, nor yet for many things as 'appened to me, but we must take the rough with the smooth, as the lady saidaboard the steamer as pitched 'ead foremost down them cabin-stairs jest as I were a-comin' up with a 'eavy lurch, as they calls it; but don't think as she'd 'ave took it that cool if she'd been where I was, and werry nigh smashed the steward's boy, tho' I never will believe as it was me as battered that Britanier metal tea-pot like that, as 'ad the spout all awry, like Miss Tredwell's nose, as she said were owin' to 'er being laid down in infancy in a easy-chair for a instant, and a aunt of 'er ma's

come in sudden and set down on 'er unawares, and bein' a lusty figger, disfiggered 'er for life, tho' in my opinion born so is the truth; not as it makes no difference, for nothink won't alter it now, tho' she did say as a medical man 'ad offered for to cut 'er a new one out of 'er fore'ead, as I says to 'er must be rubbish, for there ain't no solid flesh there to work upon, tho' it certingly is wonderful what they can do, not as I likes bein' 'acked and cut about myself; but certingly did know Matilda Sloman as 'ad one leg shorter than the other, as they cut 'em both down to one size in a jiffey, not as ever she could walk without a shuffle, as is better any'ow than a downright cripple.

So that's all as I knows about it, and any time should be 'appy to let you know anythink, thro' bein' one as keeps things to yourself, and not go a-blabbin' about everywhere, as what I likes is everythink done on the quiet, as is the way with them French. They do say as there's things under that Exhibishun as nobody don't suspect nothink about, not as I believe much of that, for I've 'eard say as when the floors was took up of the Great Exhibishun at London there wasn't nothink found of no great walue, and must 'ave been a sell for the party as 'ad give money for all as was to be found there, as I'm sure I must 'ave lost my brooch down,

tho' not of no walue, tho' one doesn't like to lose nothink, no more I didn't in Paris, only some soos as I dropped, as I only 'opes some one found as is wuss off than myself.

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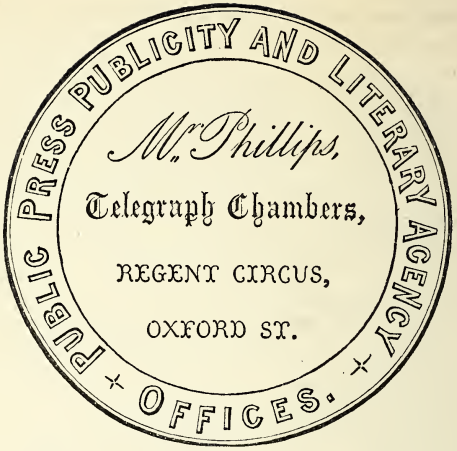

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